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Russia Vows to Prop Plunging Ruble

By Richard W. Stevenson

New York Times Service
MOSCOW — With its credibility and its hopes for economic stability increasingly on the line, the Russian government said Tuesday night that it would step in to bolster the value of its plunging currency.

After watching passively as the ruble's monthlong decline turned into a near rout Tuesday — the currency lost more than one-fifth of its value — the government reasserted its determination to keep inflation under control and promised to try to calm the financial markets.

The dive in the ruble was largely the result of currency speculators selling waves of rubles rather than any fundamental change in Russia's underlying economic condition.

But it came amid questions about the government's ability to continue a tricky economic balancing act: between reducing inflation and government spending by reining in subsidies to ailing factories, mines and farms, and avoiding widespread unemployment and potential political and social unrest that such cuts could bring.

The plunge in the ruble increases the threat of inflation, primarily by making imported goods more expensive. Inflation had fallen to less than 5 percent a month over the summer, but has since risen to around 8 percent a month.

In its announcement Tuesday night, the government said it intends to pass a budget for 1995 that will be anti-inflationary.

The rise in inflation was the initial impetus for currency dealers to sell rubles and buy dollars. But the ruble's sharp decline over the past few days has had more to do with the central bank's decision not to sell its reserves of dollars to buy rubles and prop up the Russian currency's value. Seeing that the central bank would not act, speculators sold rubles Tuesday and bought dollars with abandon, knowing there was almost nothing to check the ruble's decline.

In an attempt to end the ruble's plunge, the government said the central bank would begin buying rubles more actively on Wednesday. It also said it would increase short-term interest rates, to 170 percent from 130 percent, to make

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A pedestrian walks away from a Moscow street Tuesday as the Russian currency lost more than a fifth of its value.

Wall Street Bolts Higher on Good Corporate Earnings

By Lawrence Malkin

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — After a month in the doldrums, the stock market turned up sharply Tuesday on good news from the real world of business.

Good earnings reports and forecasts from companies that make products ranging from soap to microchips helped push the Dow Jones industrial average up 55.51 points, its single biggest jump since Sept. 15. The average finished at 3,876.83.

The gain in the overall market came from big-name companies that have reor-

ganized their operations to profit from the economic upswing.

• Procter & Gamble stock reached a record high after the consumer-products company said it expected to record record sales and earnings for its first quarter.

• Chrysler Corp. shares gained after the company said higher sales and lower customer rebates contributed to a 54 percent rise in third-quarter profits.

• PepsiCo said its third-quarter earnings rose 18 percent on strong overseas sales. The gain was higher than analysts expected, and the company's stock rose.

Since these companies are multina-

Dow Jones

Trib Index

	Up	Up
Up	55.51	1.43%
3876.83	3878.26	115.28
The Dollar		
U.S. Yen	1.5448	1.5448
DM	1.5795	1.5833
Pound	100.20	100.375
Yen	5.285	5.283

The general economic and financial outlook also cleared the way. Worries about higher interest rates, which had driven the market down in recent weeks, receded. U.S. employment figures released last Friday indicated that wage inflation was under control.

This is expected to be confirmed on the price side by what are expected to be modest wholesale and retail inflation figures due out Thursday and Friday.

Receding inflation fears helped the bond market, which in turn helped stocks. Long-term Treasury bond yields, which

U.S. Wants Weapons Ban For Zone in Southern Iraq

By Paul F. Horvitz

International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Sensing an Iraqi retreat, the United States argued Tuesday for a demilitarized zone inside southern Iraq to prevent Baghdad from threatening its neighbors and pinning down U.S. troops in a costly, indefinite deployment.

American officials, meantime, escalated their threats against the government of President Saddam Hussein, repeating publicly that the United States was considering a preemptive strike to destroy or damage Iraq's military force near its border with Kuwait.

Baaghdad said Monday that it was pulling back its troops near Kuwait. At midday Tuesday — dusk in Iraq — the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John M. Shalikashvili, said the latest U.S. intelligence showed that Iraqi troops were breaking camp but had not yet turned north, away from Kuwait.

"I am not at all prepared to say yet that the crisis is over in any way," the general said at a briefing. The American buildup will continue, he added.

Iraqi officials had insisted in Baghdad, New York and Washington that their deployment near Kuwait had ended and that nearly all those forces — estimated by the

Pentagon at approaching 80,000 — had withdrawn by early Tuesday.

In addition, the news agency Reuters said one of its reporters had seen large numbers of top-grade Iraqi armor moving northward Tuesday. While some T-72 tanks were moving southward, Reuters said, "the majority were headed away from the Kuwaiti border."

President Bill Clinton, on a trip to Michigan, said that he was "boopful" that Iraqi troops were withdrawing but that it was too soon to reach a final conclusion.

An Iraqi official said Russian and Chinese military attachés had been escorted to the southern city of Basra to confirm the withdrawal. The Russian president, Boris N. Yeltsin, sent a diplomatic team to Iraq and Kuwait.

General Shalikashvili said that 19,000 U.S. troops were in the Gulf, that 44,500 more were on their way and that 156,000 others were on alert. He said 12 U.S. warships and five allied warships were in the region and that 21 others were on the way.

In addition, he said, 200 U.S. warplanes and 52 allied warplanes were in the Gulf, 467 more were being deployed and 196 others were on alert.

In a further sign of U.S. pressure, the chief U.S. delegate at the United Nations,

Madeleine K. Albright, said that Mr. Saddam "absolutely" killed any possibility that the United Nations would ease sanctions on Iraq while he remained in power. "The sanctions resolutions are based on verifying credibility," she said, "and when somebody lies, it is very hard to make that point."

The removal of sanctions, and UN approval to sell oil, has been Iraq's most critical diplomatic goal since the end of the Gulf War. Nizar Hammoud, Iraq's delegate at the UN, said Tuesday that Iraq would continue to "fight diplomatically" to show that the Iraqis were starving because of the sanctions.

From all appearances, U.S. policymakers have decided that the crisis provides an opportunity to tighten the economic and military noose around the Iraqi regime in the hope of achieving a long-held U.S. goal, the overthrow of Mr. Saddam.

The U.S. diplomatic effort to create a new demilitarized zone was to be pursued later Tuesday at a meeting of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in New York.

"It's obviously one of the big issues to be discussed," a U.S. aide said, while cautioning

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Officials Hedge on First-Strike Option

By Joseph Fitchett

International Herald Tribune

PARIS — If Iraqi forces seemed on the point of attacking Kuwait, would the United States launch a preemptive military strike? Could an attack on Iraq convince Saddam Hussein of the weakness of his position and deter war?

Washington has been deliberately ambiguous about this possibility, publicly leaving the impression that the United States considers it an option.

Realistically, however, the idea is a non-starter for the Clinton administration, according to U.S. and European officials. Although they declined to say anything that might inhibit U.S. action, they made clear Tuesday their belief that U.S. reinforcements could defend Kuwait at this juncture without firing the first shot.

"I've heard it discussed," a Pentagon source said, "but I think this administration's instincts drive it the other way, toward a more cautious treatment of any crisis."

While easy enough militarily, a preemptive strike could expose the United States to accusations of starting a war unnecessarily.

Even such an unpopular regime as Baghdad's might manage to exploit a U.S. initiative to weaken international support for United Nations sanctions on Iraq.

"It might actually play into Saddam's hands," a French official said, "because it would not significantly worsen his military position and could help people argue Iraq is victimized by the United States, including on sanctions."

By striking first, the Clinton administration could hope to minimize American casualties. But it would only offer tempo-

rary respite unless U.S. troops were willing to cross the border and seize Iraqi territory.

Israel has created such a security zone along its northern border, using surrogate forces of anti-Palestinian Lebanese. But Washington has shown no inclination to create a similar area in Iraq by, for example, arming Iraqi opposition forces to operate from the zone in an effort to topple the regime.

A U.S. preemptive strike would almost certainly be limited to bombing raids on Iraqi military installations, probably headquarters in southern Iraq, to disrupt any offensive.

Alternatively, the United States could use Stealth aircraft or missiles to destroy command bunkers in Baghdad, communica-

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Jorg Haider, whose party won 22.6 percent of the vote on Sunday.

Austria's Man in a Hurry Rightist Hopes to Get Top Job by '96

By Alan Friedman

International Herald Tribune

VIENNA — The leader of Austria's extreme right Freedom Party, which on Sunday won a stunning 22.6 percent of the national vote, predicted Tuesday that he could be chancellor within "a year or two."

The far-right leader, Jorg Haider, a millionaire populist, said he expected Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's governing coalition would collapse within one to two years under the weight of what he termed its "bankrupt policies," paving the way for him to lead a new government.

Mr. Haider also said in an interview that he expected a part of the conservative Austrian People's Party to break away from the governing coalition and

vote with his party on several issues, forcing new general elections in less than two years. Even if this does not happen, Mr. Haider said: "I am sure that I will be the chancellor by 1998."

In any event, Mr. Haider, 44, said his party would use its newfound power to put pressure on the Vranitzky government to renegotiate some of the terms of Austria's imminent membership in the European Union. He rejected criticism of his party from Jacques Santer, the next European Commission president, saying "he should try to meet me before stating on the basis of hearsay what he thinks."

Mr. Haider's fervent anti-foreigner rhetoric and his ability to play upon the public's fears over unemployment have

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For Germany's Bomb Hunters, World War II Lives On

By Rick Atkinson
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — Peter Harvey, a cheerful man looking for trouble, was explaining the odds of finding it.

"If 100,000 bombs were dropped on Berlin toward the end of the war, at least 10 percent didn't go off," he said. "So we're talking about 10,000 unexploded bombs buried in the city. Only 2,000 have

been found since 1945; statistically speaking, there could be 8,000 bombs still here."

Mr. Harvey's ruminations were interrupted by an abrupt shout from his work crew. Trouble had been found. Stowing their metal detectors, the workers gingerly dug beneath the grassy surface of Berlin's vast central park, the Tiergarten. When the hole was a meter deep, the rusty snout of an 80mm Soviet mortar round protruded through the dirt.

The shell, probably a dud from the last desperate battle around the Reichstag in May 1945, was gingerly hoisted from the hole and laid aside for later retrieval by the police bomb squad.

Although it was not one of the thousands of unexploded munitions dropped a half-century ago from Allied airplanes — like the 225-kilogram (500-pound) U.S. bomb that killed 3 workers and injured 17 other Berliners last month — the mortar

shell was a reminder that Germany sometimes seems to be one big powder keg.

No one knows with certainty how much World War II ordnance remains buried in Germany.

One official with the city's Munitions Disposal Service estimates that in Berlin alone there are still 15,000 explosive devices, including artillery and mortar shells, hand grenades and 3,000 bombs. Others say the number could be much higher.

While time and corrosion defuse some munitions, others become more unstable.

Almost daily, something explosive is found somewhere in Germany. In late August, police cordoned off several blocks in the ancient city of Trier after an unexploded bomb was found near the cathedral. In Kiel, near the Dutch border, the town center was evacuated Sept. 17 after workers discovered a British bomb with acid leaking from its detonator. And 10,000

residents were herded from the port city of Wilhelmshaven on Sept. 21 after a 450-kilogram bomb was unearthed at a construction site.

On the former border between the two Germanys, search teams use tractors to look for several thousand land mines still unaccounted for out of the 1.3 million sown by the Communist regime.

But it is the big bombs hidden under big cities that excite the most concern.

There has been a renewed sense of urgency since Sept. 15, when construction workers unwittingly bored into the detonator of a bomb buried beneath a site on Petzenhofer Street in eastern Berlin. "The biggest explosion since the war," as one newspaper put it, demolished parked cars and an apartment building, wounded 20

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Kiosk

Israel Suspends Talks With PLO

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — Israel suspended peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization in Cairo on Tuesday after the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier by the Islamic militant group Hamas, Israeli radio said.

The radio said the head of the Israeli delegation, Major General Danny Rothschild, had been recalled to Israel for consultations.

Earlier, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered that the autonomous Gaza Strip be sealed off until further notice. He said the PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat, bore responsibility for the fate of the soldier, Nachshon Waxman, 20.

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Crossword

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months, since one committee member, Kaare Kristiansen, a longtime supporter of Israel, objected strenuously to Mr. Arafat, regarding him as someone who had espoused terrorism.

The committee considered giving the prize, worth \$950,000, to Foreign Minister Simon Peres of Israel and a PLO subordinate of Mr. Arafat's or, at another point, to "technicians" who had negotiated the outline of the agreement during secret talks in Norway.

The sources said that the committee had decided early on to recognize the peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which was reached in September 1993. The only question was who should receive the prize.

The committee debated the issue for two

months, since one committee member, Kaare Kristiansen, a longtime supporter of Israel, objected strenuously to Mr. Arafat, regarding him as someone who had espoused terrorism.

Kohl's Fate Hinges on How Well Tiny Party Performs

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

BERLIN — For the 60 million Germans eligible to vote Sunday in the national election, the issues boil down simply to this: Do they want four more years of the same under the 12-year-old coalition government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the front-runner, or has the time come for a change?

With less than a week to go, public opinion polls are not much help in predicting the answer.

If it depended only on Mr. Kohl and his Christian Democratic alliance, the polls agree, he would defeat the Social Democrats and their candidate, Rudolf Scharping, and leave them in opposition for another four years.

"We have good prospects, but the election isn't over yet," Mr. Kohl warns his supporters, flying by government helicopter to rally after rally. "11 of them last week alone. We haven't got a vote to lose or to give away."

The two latest polls, taken for the

weekly *Die Zeit* and *Der Spiegel* in the last week of September and the first week of October, predict that the Christian Democrats will win 42 percent of the vote, down from 43.8 percent in 1990 and well short of the 50 percent they would need to govern alone.

If that turns out to be right, Mr. Kohl's fate could depend on how his junior coalition partner, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel's tiny Free Democratic Party, does.

So far this year, it has not done well at all in votes for five state elections and the European Parliament, falling short of the 5 percent needed to win seats in each one.

Only one poll, a few weeks ago, forecast that the Free Democrats would not make it into the national Parliament. If they do not, however, the only way for the Christian Democrats to hold on to power might be to join forces with the Social Democratic opposition in a grand coalition like the one from 1966 to 1969.

That one paved the way for Willy Brandt to become the first postwar Social Democratic chancellor, and those who know Mr. Kohl say he would rather resign than accept the humiliation of a new grand coalition.

If Mr. Scharping wins enough votes, he could conceivably form a coalition with the Greens, the environmentalist party, and send the Christian Democrats into opposition.

Mr. Kohl and his current coalition partner say that none of this will happen.

"We'll get way over 5 percent in the national election, don't worry," Mr. Kinkel said at a campaign appearance in Berlin on Saturday. But privately he and his advisers can give only one reason why they think so: because the Free Democrats always made it into Parliament in the past.

But that was in West Germany, when the country was still divided and the party was clearly identified with a cautious foreign policy of nonconfrontation with the Communist countries to help the Germans who lived there.

Many people on both sides of the Iron Curtain believed that this policy and its best-known exponent, Mr. Kinkel's predecessor, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, helped bring about the peaceful collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Mr. Genscher resigned two years ago, after leading the Free Democrats to 11 percent of the vote in 1990. This year, the two latest public opinion polls predict, they may get 5 or 6 percent.

"I voted for them four years ago," said Volker Ebigi, 23, a student at the Free University in Berlin who came to hear Mr. Kinkel plead for support among the shoppers in Wittenberg Square, "but I wouldn't do it again."

Mr. Ebigi lives in Düsseldorf and has already filled out his absentee ballot, he said, for the Christian Democrats. "The Free Democrats made it impossible for Germany to make a contribution to the war in the Gulf in 1991," he said.

Mr. Kinkel later went to East Berlin for a question-and-answer session attended by about 200 voters at the Free

WORLD BRIEFS

Berlusconi Accedes to 'Blind Trust'

ROME (Combined Dispatches) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi pledged Tuesday to bow to plans for a "blind trust" to administer his business affairs, as he signaled his intent to bridge widening rifts in his government coalition.

Mr. Berlusconi, who owns the Fininvest business empire, said he would accept proposals by three government advisers aimed at staving off politically damaging conflicts of interest between his public duties and business concerns.

"Although the plan is very harsh in relation to legislation existing in other countries, I think modifying it would not be opportune," the prime minister said. "It will be up to the sovereign Parliament to decide" the proposals' fate. (AP)

Right Wing Assails Major at Meeting

BOURNEMOUTH, England (Reuters) — Bitter divisions within Britain's governing Conservative Party burst into the open on Tuesday with a fierce onslaught by right-wingers on Prime Minister John Major's policy toward Europe.

Norman Lamont, dismissed as chancellor of the Exchequer in May 1993, stunned the first day of the Conservatives' annual conference by saying Britain was losing the fight against closer integration and might one day have to pull out of the European Union. Mr. Lamont's attack capped a fraught day for Major whose party, in power since 1979, is stuck more than 20 points behind the Labor party in opinion polls.

The four-day gathering began under a cloud of allegations of influence-peddling leveled against Margaret Thatcher's son, Mark, in connection with a huge arms deal his mother signed with Saudi Arabia when she was prime minister in the mid-1980s. Lady Thatcher, upset by the controversy, looked pale and drawn when she took her place on the podium to muted applause from delegates who once cheered her every word.

Kim Jong II Misses Dedication Event

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea's president-designate, Kim Jong II, missed a much-hyped ceremony on Tuesday, leaving analysts to wonder whether he would appear at ceremonies this weekend to mark 100 days since the death of his father, Kim Il Sung.

Mr. Kim, who has not been seen in public for 83 days, and Defense Minister O Jin U, were absent from the list of those who attended the ceremony for the inauguration of the tomb of Tangun, Korea's legendary founding father.

"It is something unexpected that Kim Jong II missed the event," an official at the Unification Ministry here said. The official added that the completion of the tomb had been a pet project of the late president.

Exiled Bangladeshi Sets French Visit

PARIS (Reuters) — Organizers of Taslima Nasrin's canceled visit to France said Tuesday that they were making new plans for the exiled Bangladeshi writer to come to Paris for a weeklong stay around Nov. 23.

They said Dr. Nasrin would request to stay about a week, and they were waiting for the French authorities to say how long she would be allowed to stay before establishing her schedule. Last week, she dropped plans to visit after the government limited her stay to 24 hours for security reasons. After an outcry, Foreign Minister Alain Juppé retreated and said she would be welcome.

Dr. Nasrin has been condemned to death by Muslim fundamentalists in her country for criticizing Islam and for suggesting that the Koran would benefit from rewriting.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Strike to Shut 2 More Greek Sites

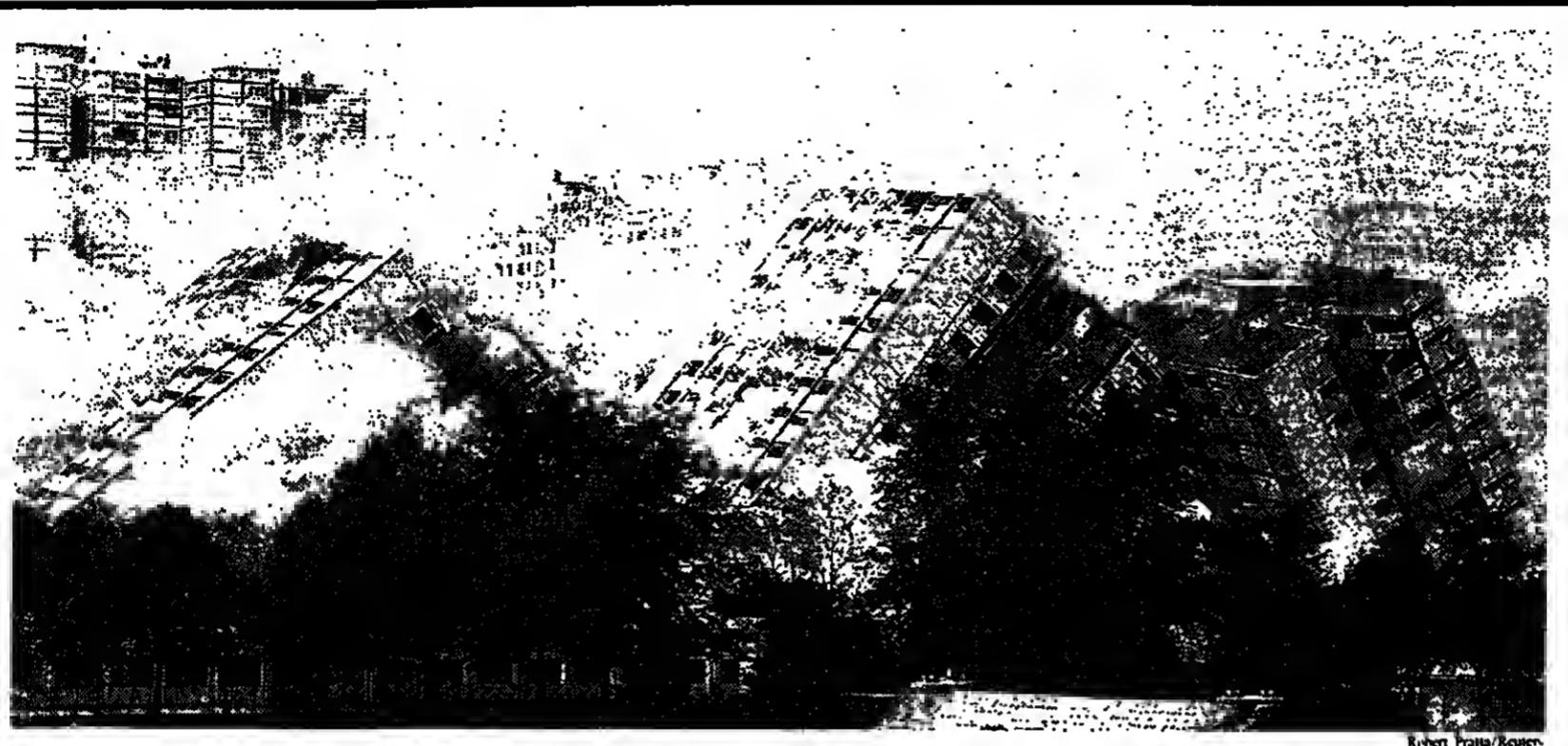
ATHENS (AP) — A strike by Culture Ministry employees that has closed the Acropolis and its museum for a week will spread on Thursday to two more popular archaeological tourist sites, Cape Sounion and the palace of Knossos on Crete, a labor official said Tuesday.

The ministry's 6,000 employees are seeking higher pay and the establishment of a "self-help fund" that would come out of a 20 percent increase in ticket prices. The strike will be indefinite and will spread throughout the country unless the demands are met, the official said.

Cathay Pacific Airways, Qantas Airways and Thai Airways International announced Tuesday that they would match cuts in first-class and business-class fares by Singapore Airlines to destinations from Singapore. Singapore Airlines said last week that it was cutting its first-class fares by 10 percent to 15 percent, along with its SilkAir subsidiary. Business-class fares would be cut by 15 percent to 20 percent. The new rates take effect Sunday. (AP)

SAS will restore flights to Zagreb, Croatia, flying weekly from Copenhagen, on Saturdays as of Nov. 5, the airline said Tuesday. It plans to use MD-87s seating 100 passengers. (Bloomberg)

Malawi reported an outbreak of bubonic plague Tuesday, following outbreaks in Mozambique and Zimbabwe last week. (AFP)



ALL FALL DOWN — Public housing towers in a suburb near Lyon crashing down Tuesday after being dynamited. The apartment build-

ings in Vénissieux, which were called "Les Minguettes" and constructed in the '60s, had become a symbol for French suburban deterioration.

A Game Tool Wins 3 Economists a Nobel

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

STOCKHOLM — Three economists who played a major part in developing the study of games like chess or poker into a vital tool for economic analysis were awarded the 1994 Nobel Economics Prize on Tuesday.

The three, who will share the \$930,000 prize, were John C. Harsanyi, a retired professor from the University of California at Berkeley; John F. Nash, a mathematician at Princeton University, and Reinhard Selten of the University of Bonn.

They refined the foundation of game theory — discovered 50 years ago — to be able to make predictions by devising strategies based on unknown factors.

Their work used strategies applied in such games as chess and poker to make predictions about interactions in a variety of economic areas.

"Everyone knows that in these games, players have to think ahead — devise a strategy based on expected counter-moves," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in a statement. "Such strategic interaction also characterizes many economic situations, and game theory has therefore proved to be very useful in economic analysis."

The researchers focused on a formula in which players in games — or executives in companies — received information about each other's positions to form strategies.

It was borrowed in part from the biological concept of natural selection. Their research has been used in everything from the study of environment to analysis of foreign trade and information, the statement said.

Mr. Nash was singled out for what has become known as the "Nash equilibrium."

"The Nash equilibrium has become a standard tool in almost all areas of economic theory in order to improve our understanding of complex strategic interaction," the academy said.

The academy lauded Mr. Harsanyi both for showing how games of incomplete information can be analyzed and for "significant contributions to the foundations of welfare economics."

Mr. Selten, who co-authored a book with Mr. Harsanyi on equilibrium selection in games, was the first to refine the Nash equilibrium concept and apply it to analyses of competition with only a few sellers, the academy said.

The Swedish academy, which has awarded the prizes since 1969, said the theory of equilibrium analysis — the theory that enables people to make skilled predictions — had become widely accepted in economic analysis and is even used when financial markets are seeking to determine how a central bank will behave.

"Nash equilibrium has become a standard tool in almost all areas of economic theory," the academy said.

The economics prize is the second of six Nobel prizes to be awarded this week for outstanding achievements in medicine, economics, physics, chemistry, literature and peace. Two Americans won the medicine prize on Monday.

The economist Oskar Morgenstern and the mathematician John von Neumann first adapted game theory for economics in 1949. The academy said Mr. Nash, Mr. Selten and Mr. Harsanyi added invaluable refinements so that game theory could be applied to almost any strategic decision.

Skinheads Attack German Woman

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

POTSDAM, Germany — A German woman was badly injured when she was thrown from a streetcar by skinheads after she had tried to stop them from robbing an elderly woman, the police said Tuesday.

The injured woman, 34, had gone to the aid of an elderly woman whom three skinheads were attempting to rob. As she helped the old woman stand up to leave, the skinheads threw her from the streetcar. She was hospitalized with hip injuries after striking a pillar.

A black African man was also attacked by skinheads on Monday, the police said, reporting the latest acts of extremism in East German cities. In Berlin, two skinheads were arrested for molesting Tamil flower vendors and making the Hitler salute.

(AP, Reuters)

NOBEL: Arafat to Share Prize?

Continued from Page 1

tured by Israel during the 1967 war.

The sweep of the accord was highlighted by the ceremony that accompanied its signing. Millions around the world watched on television as Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin shook hands under the nudging arms of President Bill Clinton.

That event so dominated the news last year that many people had predicted that the Nobel committee would pay homage to it, in much the same way as it awarded a shared prize to Nelson Mandela and Frederik W. de Klerk the year before for their signing of the Camp David peace accords between their two countries.

U.K. Offers Landing Slots In 2d Rank to Americans

Bloomberg Business News

BOURNEMOUTH, England — Transport Secretary Brian Mawhinney said Tuesday he had offered to open British regional airports to American carriers on trans-Atlantic flights.

Another Swedish newspaper, *Dagens Nyheter*, carried a story over the weekend that the prize could be shared by Mr. Arafat, Mr. Rabin and an other PLO representative. In 1978, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel shared the Nobel Peace Prize for their signing of the Camp David peace accords between their two countries.

But because the proposal excludes Heathrow and Gatwick, the two London airports that are the most prized destinations for airlines in the United States, it is likely to produce a lukewarm response from Washington.

American Airlines said it was not impressed with the offer.

"We don't think it's that big a deal," said Lizzann Peppard, a spokesman for American Airlines in London. "Basically we are still looking for greater access to Heathrow and beyond."

But officials of AMR Corp., American Air's corporate parent, said the airline might be interested in opening service between Birmingham and Chicago and between Manchester and Miami.

The deal is a turning point in the bloody conflict with local residents who have opposed the airport since it was announced — without their consultation — in 1966 and opened in 1976.

By admitting past mistakes, and withdrawing its bid to appropriate land, the government persuaded local opponents to agree to drop their unified fight against expansion of the airport.

"It's a memorable day that signals the end of the state of enmity between the government and the local people," said Hiromichi Ishige of the opposition Atsuta faction.

This is a virtual end to the Narita dispute.

Pact Will Give Narita a 2d Runway

By Steven Brill
International Herald Tribune

TOKYO — In a step toward improving access to Japan by air, the government announced a compromise agreement Tuesday that could lead to a major expansion of capacity at Tokyo's over-crowded Narita airport.

The deal is a turning point in the bloody conflict with local residents who have opposed the airport since it was announced — without their consultation — in 1966 and opened in 1976.

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"It's a memorable day that signals the end of the state of enmity between the government and the local people," said Hiromichi Ishige of the opposition Atsuta faction.

This is a virtual end to the Narita dispute.

The agreement Tuesday calls for the completion of a second, parallel runway at Narita in exchange for suspending plans to complete a third runway now under construction with strong cross-winds. Acquisition of land and construction, however, will only open with the consent of neighbors, who so far have adamantly refused to surrender their land.

The timing, therefore, remains uncertain. In practice, however, the second runway could be completed in less than two years.

Its completion is certain to lead to a major expansion of flights to and from Tokyo by Japanese and foreign carriers.

"It's the best news we've had since Narita opened," said Warwick Blacker, chairman of the Board of Airlines Representatives in Japan.

The agreement was heralded as a victory for social justice in Japan. The government had been criticized for announcing plans to build the airport east of Tokyo without consulting local residents.

Narita, the world's fifth-busiest passenger airport and top international cargo facility in 1992, has been unable to accommodate requests for increased service.

The problem has particularly irritated foreign carriers, most of which are far more competitive than the Japanese rivals, whose costs have risen with the yen. Airlines from 42 countries are waiting for permission to fly to Japan.

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THE AMERICAS /

Clinton's Foreign Policy Harvest Haiti and Iraq Efforts Provide Political Fruit

By Ruth Marcus
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — After enduring months of accusation of an indecisive and ineffective foreign policy, the White House moved quickly to capitalize on a good day in the foreign policy arena.

President Bill Clinton seized on the resignation of Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras in Haiti and the administration's continued hard line on Iraq as the occasion for an Oval Office address Monday, the ultimate presidential forum. It was the third time in three weeks that Mr. Clinton has spoken to the nation from the Oval Office.

Although the administration said the crisis with Iraq remained far from resolved, officials boasted of their quick and forceful response to the buildup of troops on the Kuwaiti border. It was evidence, they said, of an administration that would not repeat the mistakes of the past by allowing Iraqi aggression to proceed unchecked.

At the same time, officials were eager to trumpet the events in Haiti as the fruit of a firm and focused U.S. effort to pave the way for the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The resignation of General Cedras, a senior official said, was "a major step forward" in the restoration of democracy.

For White House officials, it was a far more pleasant alternative than the image one year earlier of the grim-faced president discussing the deaths of U.S. soldiers in Somalia, or — as recently as last month — threatening to take the politically unpopular step of invading Haiti.

The latest developments offered Mr. Clinton the chance to be presidential — serious and resolute as he announced the largest deployment of force of his administration — without delivering unwelcome or difficult news.

In his address, the president wrapped in the recent visits of President Boris N. Yeltsin of Russia and President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, saying, "We are making progress in building a world of greater security, peace and democracy."

Mr. Clinton's aim, said a senior official, was to use the speech to show that "we make commitments, we stand by these commitments, and it brings us results."

The White House was determined to reap the political capital without being tagged with doing so. The stern word went out to senior staff Monday morning: "No one was to discuss the political implications of the administration's activities in the Gulf and Haiti."

"I want you to write that no one at the White House would talk about the politics of this," said a senior official.

Said another, "I'll leave that to the pundits."

Outside observers differed on that score. Some particularly Democrats, said they thought the events would go a long way toward allaying public fears about the president's foreign policy leadership. But Republicans said they saw little, if any, benefit to the president.

"Each time he demonstrates to Americans that he is a president who will stand his ground, he strengthens his hand as president," said a Democratic pollster, Geoff Garin. "Politically, by the time he's up for re-election, people have to feel very comfortable that he fits his job."

But Republicans had a far less rosy perspective. A Republican pollster, Ed Goeas, said the foreign policy problems distracted Mr. Clinton at a time when he should be campaigning more aggressively for Democratic candidates.

"It just delays him being able to fight back," Mr. Goeas said.

Richard Haass, a National Security Council staff member in the Bush administration who is now at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said it was premature to predict any longer-term impact.

"It's too soon for it to have any decisive or lasting effect," said Mr. Haass, "in part because Haiti hasn't played out, in part because of the memories of Somalia, Bosnia and the general perception of the president as someone uncomfortable with things military, and also because I think he's yet to demonstrate that he can manage the use of force effectively throughout a crisis."

Campaign TV Ads Turn Raw

Surly Voters Reject 'Soft and Fuzzy Stuff' of '92 Races

By Howard Kurtz
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — During the 1992 New Hampshire primary, Bill Clinton made a television advertisement with a man unable to pay for heart surgery for his ailing 2-year-old son.

"There's something wrong," Mr. Clinton said, "with a government that can't open its heart to help a father care for a young child whose heart is already broken."

Few politicians would air such an ad in the meaner, grittier, anti-government climate surrounding this year's elections. Armed with polling research showing that Americans are disgusted with the political system, candidates are marketing themselves not as compassionate reformers but as "tough-minded outsiders."

"All that soft and fuzzy stuff doesn't matter," said a Republican consultant, Don Sipple. "Voters are immune to video clichés. They want the meat."

The meat in 1994 terms, is rather raw: in favor of the death penalty, longer prison terms and cutting off welfare benefits; against taxes; immigration and congressional perks. In 30-second television or radio spots, strategists say, specific issues are far less important than tapping into the electorate's sour mood.

"Ninety-four is about who can get further outside the system," said a Republican pollster, Frank Luntz. "To me, the best candidate of all would be an astronaut. He can say, 'I was floating in outer space the whole time.'"

The result is what political professionals describe as the most bitterly negative campaign in modern history.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, is running attack ads for the first time in his 32-year career, using laid-off workers to criticize the business practices of his Republican opponent, Mitt Romney.

Governor Pete Wilson of California is criticizing the Democratic candidate, Kathleen

Brown, as soft on rapists and child molesters.

Senator Jim Sasser, Democrat of Tennessee, has even depicted Dr. William Frist as a cat hater. A radio ad describing Dr. Frist's medical experiments on cats asks: "Why did he do it?" Dr. Frist said, "I wasn't going to let a few sentiments about fury little creatures stand in the way of my career." Millionaire doctor Bill Frist: The only thing he puts first is himself."

Strikingly absent from most campaign ads are the issues that loomed so prominently in recent years: abortion rights, federal budget deficits, the environment. Health care is barely a bleep on the screen.

Mr. Sipple, the consultant, calls these "therapy" issues — solving problems through an activist government — and says they have been superseded by sharper-edged "discipline" issues.

"The most powerful issue is disciplining Congress," he said, "punishing people who've bounced checks and traveled extravagantly."

When Senator John H. Chafee, Republican of Rhode Island, was up for re-election in 1988, Mr. Sipple said, "We did a ton of environmental spots on the Sierra Club and Narragansett Bay." He added, "I haven't done any of that this year."

Signs of the new times are everywhere. In 1992, President George Bush ran ads touting his plan for "a choice of quality schools," "job training" and "health care for all." This year, his sons Jeb and George W., running for governor in Florida and Texas, are airing stark ads about dangerous criminals being turned loose and the need for more capital punishment.

As the air wars intensify in the campaign's final weeks, the decibel level may leave the electorate with a splitting headache.

"Here you have voters fed up with the partisan bickering and negativity, and what they're getting is a bigger dose of partisan bickering and negativity," said Mr. Luntz, the pollster. "It's a vicious circle."

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The Supreme Court has ruled unconstitutional. The state Supreme Court ruled, 6 to 1, that the measure bars homosexuals from "having an effective voice in government affairs" and denies them equal protection under the U.S. Constitution. State officials vowed to appeal.

The space shuttle Endeavour landed in the California desert after heavy cloud cover in Florida foiled plans to end the shuttle's 11-day Earth-mapping mission at its home base.

The judge in the O.J. Simpson trial has threatened to throw out many pieces of evidence in the murder case, including tests on a bloody glove, saying they may have been submitted too late to a laboratory for testing.

AP, AFP, NYT

defense made a strong case that it was unfairly burdened by the delay. He said he would rule Friday.

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A gunman wounded eight people in a New York dance club after someone stepped on his toes and a shoving match ensued, police said. The police were searching for the gunman.

An American Airlines jet from New York blew several tires upon landing in Toronto, causing a small fire and forcing the 157 people on board to disembark by sliding down emergency escape chutes. A few minor injuries were reported. Fire fighters quickly extinguished the flames.

AP, AFP, NYT

U.S. Troops In Palace, Awaiting Aristide

By William Booth
Washington Post Service

PORTE-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — U.S. troops on Tuesday occupied Haiti's ultimate portal to power, the National Palace, in preparation for the return from exile of the elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Hundreds of soldiers milled about on the expansive lawns of the gleaming white building, their Humvees and armored vehicles blocking entrances, as the de facto president, Emile Jonassaint, remained camped at his hillside home.

U.S. officials predicted that Mr. Jonassaint would resign by Wednesday, the same day that the former military commander, Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras and his deputy, Brigadier General Philippe Biambry, are expected to fly into exile. The generals remained Monday and are most likely to go to Panama.

U.S. troops also occupied the offices of the de facto government's ministers. Mr. Jonassaint's entire cabinet is also expected to resign.

Father Aristide's acting prime minister, Robert Malval, the former national security aide who is running for the Senate from Virginia, was "giving aid and comfort" to Saddam Hussein by suggesting U.S. forces could not stop an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"It is despicable, it is unpatriotic and as is often the case with statements from Oliver North, it is also patently untrue," Vice President Al Gore said in attacking the former Reagan administration aide.

"He has put the rankest form of partisanship ahead of the national interest in a manner which is insulting to our armed forces, to our flag, to the soldiers who are prepared to go into battle if necessary," Mr. Gore added.

Mr. North, a Republican, is in a tight race with Senator Charles S. Robb, a Democrat, and both President Bill Clinton and Mr. Gore have campaigned on Mr. Robb's behalf.

On Monday, Mr. North backed off

from his assertion that the Clinton administration had so weakened the U.S. military that it could not stop an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. But he continued to hammer the president, dismissing him as "not my commander in chief." (AP, WP)



Residents of Cite Soleil, a Port-au-Prince slum, cleaning up with equipment provided by the United States. (Tim Perkins, Agence France Presse)

POLITICAL NOTES

Gore Says North Aids Iraq

WASHINGTON — The White House said Tuesday that Oliver L. North, the former national security aide who is running for the Senate from Virginia, was "giving aid and comfort" to Saddam Hussein by suggesting U.S. forces could not stop an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"It is despicable, it is unpatriotic and as is often the case with statements from Oliver North, it is also patently untrue," Vice President Al Gore said in attacking the former Reagan administration aide.

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from his assertion that the Clinton administration had so weakened the U.S. military that it could not stop an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. But he continued to hammer the president, dismissing him as "not my commander in chief." (AP, WP)

Wife Stirs Up Senate Race

LOS ANGELES — Those who have known Arianna Stassinopoulos Huffington would not be surprised at the latest tempest she has stirred up. After all, when she was 23, her first book took a slap at feminism that drew an international audience of admirers and foes.

Now, as her husband, Michael Huffington, campaigns for the U.S. Senate in California, the woman who has often sought the center of attention has found herself there again.

This time Mrs. Huffington, 44, is the target of accusations that her husband's candidacy is more a product of her ideas and quest for power than his. And, her critics say, they are suspicious about her role in a religious group in which she once served as a minister.

Mrs. Huffington said she was "shocked" to be the target of such accusations, which she said were vastly overblown by a liberal conspiracy aimed at discrediting her husband.

In the CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll,

taken Friday through Sunday, 6 percent of the 1,013 respondents had no opinion on the president. A Sept. 23-25 poll by the same group gave Mr. Clinton a 44 percent job-approval rating, against a 51 percent disapproval mark. The new survey had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points.

The group also reported that Congress received its highest disapproval rate in the survey, in 20 years of polling by Gallup, with 73 percent disapproving and 21 percent approving, while 6 percent had no opinion. (Reuters)

She played down her role in the campaign, saying she served as a surrogate speaker like many political spouses, but was not a major decision-maker.

She also described her role in John-Roger's Church of the Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness, known by its acronym MSIA, as a casual one, involving seminars about practical life questions rather than religious dogma. She said the organization was not a cult.

Five former staff members of the Huffington campaign said the candidate's wife was so active that she was essentially acting as the campaign manager. They said eight staff members quit because of disagreements with her.

Former ministers said that Mrs. Huffington had been a devoted John-Roger follower for many years. A new book by Peter McWilliams, a former church member who is now critical of the group, described her as an active organizer who sought new recruits.

Mrs. Huffington, a prominent socialite and author before she met her husband, said she had not taken part in the church since 1987, when she became a born-again Christian. (L-17)

Quote/Unquote

Albert M. (Bo) Calloway, a councilman in Trenton, New Jersey, on why he is endorsing a Republican, Garabed (Chuck) Haytian, for U.S. senator: "I don't care if I'm a Democrat. I'm 72 years old, and I can do no blanket thing I want, and I'm endorsing him." (NYT)

Mexican Police Arrest Suspect In Assassination

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — The police on Tuesday arrested one of two fugitives sought on charges of masterminding the assassination of the governing party's second-highest official, local television reported.

Fernando Rodriguez Gonzalez, an aide to the fugitive congressman Manuel Munoz Rocha, was arrested in the central city of Zacatecas, a television station reported, quoting sources in the attorney general's office.

Mr. Rodriguez Gonzalez and Mr. Munoz Rocha, both of the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party, are accused of plotting the murder of Jose Francisco Rodriguez Massieu, a rising star in the ruling party.

Mr. Rodriguez Massieu, of Guerrero state, was to be the next house majority leader.

Both men fled after the Sept. 27 murder outside a hotel in central Mexico City. Mr. Munoz Rocha remains at large. He is being sought in Mexico as well as in the United States.

The failure to win a complete amnesty was a factor in the general's decision to leave Haiti, U.S. officials said.

The resistance to Father Aristide among the Haitian military and police remains strong.

Later, Mr. Gravely said that his mind had changed.

"I would be lying if I said I didn't come out with a different view," he said.

(AP, NYT, WP)

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LE TOIT DE PARIS

International Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

A Reckless Iraqi Ploy

A Decisive Clinton

Five days of Iraqi deployments and U.S. counterdeployments around Kuwait's northern border have left Bill Clinton looking like a born-again military strategist and Saddam Hussein like a dangerous and clumsy bully. Iraq's announcement on Monday that it was withdrawing troops from the border region vindicates Mr. Clinton's strategy of quick and massive military deterrence of any Iraqi plans for renewed aggression.

The Iraqi leader's motives and intentions are known only to him. But if he thought he could force a resolution of the diplomatic stalemate over oil sanctions by stirring up a new military crisis over Kuwait, he was badly mistaken. By foolishly conducting threatening military maneuvers near the Kuwaiti border, Baghdad has set back its cause among friend and foe alike.

Iraq's cooperation with United Nations arms inspectors entitles it to seek limited relief from international sanctions — permission to again export oil and amass petrodollars. But the Security Council cannot and must not ease sanctions under duress from military threats. If Iraq is really withdrawing and is now prepared to accept Kuwait's sovereignty and borders, it can again begin trying to persuade Security Council members that lifting oil sanctions sometime next year would be in the best interests of all concerned. But its actions in the past few days have set back its chances of success.

Before Baghdad precipitated the latest crisis by moving at least two elite divisions southward toward the Kuwaiti border, it was making diplomatic gains. UN inspectors reported that Iraq's nuclear, biological and chemical weapons components and longer-range missiles had been fully located and destroyed. A thorough system for long-term monitoring is ready to go into operation in the coming weeks — if Iraq continues its recent pattern of cooperation with the United Nations.

Such destruction and monitoring of prohibited weapons are the only formal UN requirements for lifting oil sanctions under the Gulf War cease-fire resolution, which was largely drafted by the United States. China, France and Russia have indicated that they might soon be ready

to vote to lift oil sanctions. But even these countries rightly demand that Iraq first firmly and explicitly recognize Kuwait's sovereignty and borders. That condition has now become even more important.

The other two permanent members of the Security Council, the United States and Britain, oppose any relief at this time, or perhaps at any time while Saddam remains in power. They argue that he cannot be trusted to continue his cooperation on arms once sanctions have been eased. That objection now carries added weight.

Iraqi diplomats suggest that Baghdad's menacing military moves were meant to cut through this Security Council deadlock. The idea was to set up a deal where guarantees for Kuwait could be traded for a definite promise that sanctions would be lifted. If that was the plan, it has blown up in Iraq's face. Rather than having to explain to impatient allies why it was rewriting the rules on oil sanctions, Washington can now point to Iraq's continued dangerous unpredictability.

Mr. Clinton shows that he has learned the lesson of George Bush's equivocal early response to Iraq's 1990 threats against Kuwait. By quickly moving tens of thousands of troops, along with combat aircraft and ships, toward Kuwait, the administration may be able to claim credit for avoiding a possible invasion and war.

This emergency but precautionary deployment of U.S. troops falls within the president's constitutional powers as commander in chief. Unlike the recent situation in Haiti, threats to Kuwait clearly affect U.S. national interests, and the president's moves have elicited broad public and congressional support. Still, Mr. Clinton should resist any temptation to strike preemptively at Iraq, and if the military confrontation persists he should seek explicit congressional endorsement.

For Saddam, this crisis demonstrates again how well he understands Iraqi politics; he badly misreads the outside world. For Mr. Clinton, provided the crisis is now defused with no Americans killed, the episode could turn out to be a pre-election gift. The president has reassured a nervous public that, when it is clearly and urgently needed, he can project force decisively and effectively.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Sanctions Should Stay

Saddam Hussein evidently looked hard during the weekend at the prompt and forceful American response to his provocative movement of troops up to the Kuwaiti border. On Monday he announced that he was backing off. Assuming that there are no surprises — and the extra buildup steps that President Bill Clinton announced Monday night are meant to ensure that there are none — the crisis will have provided a good demonstration of the value of sending clear signals to a potential aggressor. The Bush administration wobbled in 1990 to ill effect. The Clinton team avoided ambiguity. It seems there will be no repeat conflict now.

What Saddam Hussein apparently has most on his mind is to end the severe economic sanctions that the United Nations imposed four years ago for his swallowing of Kuwait. He had sought to accomplish this result on the cheap by meeting UN standards for policing Iraq's capacity to make especially dangerous weapons. But it had become apparent at the United Nations that he would have to do more — at the least, recognize Kuwait's sovereignty and borders. This touched a primary nationalist issue on which he has consistently refused to

bend. Instead he launched a rash and counterproductive attempt to intimidate Kuwait and its supporters. Now the attempt has failed, rendering even more unlikely any early sanctions relief.

His failure at intimidation may induce him to experiment with withholding his promised cooperation on arms monitoring until sanctions are lifted. The United Nations would have to reject that new linkage and respond with whatever intrusive and punitive military means were found necessary to prevent illegal rearming.

The whole episode has revived debate on whether to move beyond enforcement of specific UN resolutions on weapons, Kuwait and so forth in order to deal with the Iraqi threat permanently by bringing about the ouster of Saddam Hussein. The weekend nonwar refreshed the already compelling case that while Saddam Hussein rules, there can be no abiding stability in his region. Military operations to remove him seem beyond the Gulf War coalition's political reach. But continued sanctions, to limit his military option and embolden would-be coup makers, still make sense. The existing loophole for humanitarian aid should remain open, notwithstanding Saddam's refusal so far to use it. And the sanctions should stay.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Iraq, Clinton and U.S. Politics

Whatever its outcome, the new showdown with Saddam Hussein seems bound to work to the advantage of President Bill Clinton, casting his foreign policy in a more resolute light and perhaps bolstering his and his party's popularity before next month's mid-term elections.

Unlike Haiti, Somalia and Bosnia, Iraq is an issue on which American politicians are virtually united. Thus far, even usually unrelenting critics of the President's indecisive style such as the Senate Republican leader Bob Dole have thrown their weight behind the White House. The lone dissenting voice has been that of Ross Perot.

As George Bush knows better than anyone, popularity boosts from besting Saddam Hussein can be short-lived — but a president so often accused of wavering has acted without hesitation. If the climbdown is genuine, he will be given much of the credit.

— Rupert Cornwell, writing in *The Independent* (London).

— Le Monde (Paris).

No Lifeline for Saddam as He Drowns in Unsold Oil

By A. M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — The heart of the matter is not what Saddam Hussein will do or can do to harass his enemies in the West and Mideast. It is what they can do and will do to destroy him at last.

Will they allow him one more victory so he can return again to threaten the Mideast and the United States next year? Or will they push him finally into the grave he has been digging for himself, his regime and his nation?

Basically that has been the question ever since George Bush made one of the more unusual decisions in history. He allowed an enemy smashed swiftly by the United Nations to remain in power indefinitely, his dictatorship intact and his army strong enough to carry on unlessing warfare against millions of his countrymen.

But by his latest adventure — sending troops to the Kuwaiti border — Saddam Hussein has shown the West his own desperation and its opportunity. Sooner or later many dictators do that.

Baghdad's announcement of the withdrawal of the troops changes neither Saddam's desperation nor the West's choice.

Why did Saddam take this dangerous gamble? He has made dreadful mistakes before but not quite this obvious. This

time he had notice that if it came to war, Bill Clinton was not likely to allow him to remain in power. That of course meant that he would not remain alive.

Saddam also knew that France, Turkey and Russia were working to lift the embargo so that they could again do oil business with Iraq.

Madeleine Albright, the U.S. representative to the United Nations, deserves national bouquets for fighting against ending the embargo. But Saddam also knew that ever since the end of the Gulf War European industrialists had been meeting with Iraqi officials to rebuild the reconstruction and arms network that empowered him before the war. They were using their influence to lift the embargo that kept them from the Iraqi treasury.

Saddam was being told by his European friends to lie low and maybe the United States would go along in six months or so. But he could not afford just to wait. The oil embargo was not merely crippling the country but inciting rebellion among civilian Iraqis and the armed forces. Laurie Mylroie has reported (*IHT Opinion*, Oct. 4) that in both the civilian population and

the military, Saddam has ordered amputation of ears, feet and arms as punishment for rebellion or desertion.

The issue now is not what to do about Iraq if it does invade Kuwait but what to do if it does not. The answer is to tighten the embargo, not loosen it, by insisting that before it can be lifted the Iraqi regime has to end rule by terror against all Iraqis and foreign targets.

Saddam Hussein would of course not agree. Without terrorism he could rule for a month perhaps not much longer. But when the Iraqi army and civilians understand that the embargo will not be lifted with Saddam in power they might take with their own lives, and his, into their hands.

The West could destroy Saddam by war. But by his own desperation and stupidity or both, he has shown that he is drowning in his own unsold oil.

Clintonian policy has been exactly right — send in troops in case Saddam is not only desperate but insane and try to prevent either France, Russia or the despot lobby from throwing the man a lifeline as he sinks and sinks and sinks.

The New York Times

For an Economic Union Linking Russia and Its Western Neighbors

By Grigori A. Yavlinsky

The writer, an economist, leads the Yablonko bloc, a democratic opposition party with members in the lower house of the Russian Federal Assembly.

intelligible principles that reflect moral absolutes.

If Russia truly wants to continue being democratic, these should be the principles: the states that appeared after the collapse of the post-Soviet region.

Russia should base policies toward its so-called near abroad on clear principles that reflect moral absolutes.

Soviet Union must remain politically independent: integration should be voluntary, without any pressure from Russia; economic union should be the basic form of integration — and in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova the only form.

Why would this approach be practical? First, because neither Russia nor any other post-Soviet country can hope to join the European Community, much less NATO, in the near future. Russia and its neighbors need their own markets, which would provide the sole basis for economic growth in the next five to 10 years.

Second, because economic integration would result in greater social stability throughout the post-Soviet region.

An economic union would need three main features. First, a customs union. This would guarantee free trade and neutralize monopolies in these countries.

Then a payments union. This would promote convertibility of the currencies and, with help from the central banks, establish and support exchange rates. Of course, this assumes coordination of fiscal and budgetary policies.

A payments union would lead to greater stability of the currency systems and thus to growth of trade, while significantly diminishing the risk of loss through wildly fluctuating exchange rates.

Finally, harmonized economic legislation. This would facilitate a single set of rules and simplify the movement of capital among the several countries.

If an economic union is formed, Russia's economic gains, while not guaranteed, would significantly slow the decline in production and the growth of unemployment. An increase in sales in Commonwealth of Independent States markets would enable Rus-

sian enterprises to pay for their own restructuring, enabling them to enter world markets eventually with competitive products.

Russia could temporarily provide gas and oil at a discount to such countries as Ukraine and Belarus. It would cost \$2 billion to \$3 billion a year — a relatively small price to pay for a significant expansion of markets for Russia's industry and agriculture.

What most worries the democratic opposition in Russia is the absence of a clear stand among the country's leaders against military and political integration with Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova — the only former Soviet countries.

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The economic scenario I propose might well persuade the United States to reduce its financial aid through international financial institutions, and to increase aid proportionately to other former Soviet countries.

In particular, money could go to Ukraine or Belarus — on condition of faster market reforms — to support their balance of trade with Russia.

Any support that opened markets for Russia is more beneficial than direct aid. It would stimulate production in Russia. This would let the Russians work instead of receiving handouts. And it would support 25 million Russians living in the near abroad.

Is economic integration without political integration possible? Yes. But Russia has to understand that it must refrain from any political union with Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova whatsoever — even if these states invite it — because there would be only two possible outcomes: failure or neo-imperialism.

In view of the disconcerting neo-imperialist thinking that is arising in Russia, formation of an economic bloc is the only reasonable compromise.

This comment was translated from the Russian by Antonina W. Bouis for The New York Times.

A Humiliating Smithsonian Retreat From the Facts of Hiroshima

By Kai Bird

WAshington — It was a humiliating spectacle, scholars being forced to recant the truth. Curators at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum in Washington have been compelled by veterans' groups to rewrite the text for an exhibit on the bombing of Hiroshima.

The show, which will feature the forward fuselage of the Enola Gay, the plane that dropped the atomic bomb, is set to open next year for the 50th anniversary of the event.

All summer, the museum's curators faced mounting pressure from the American Legion, the Air Force Association and dozens of politicians. A hostile press portrayed the curators as anti-American, leftist and motivated by anti-Vietnam War generation instincts rather than scholarship and archival evidence. So late last month the curators bowed to political reality.

At the heart of the dispute is the inaccurate but understandable belief of the veterans that the atomic bomb saved their lives from being sacrificed in an invasion of Japan. At the insistence of veterans' groups, the text will now state that 1945 casualty esti-

mates ranged to "conceivably as many as one million," and that "to try to save as many American lives as possible, Truman chose to use the atomic bomb."

Many scholars — including Barton J. Bernstein, Marvin J. Sternwartz, Robert M. Siers, James Herschberg, Gar Alperovitz, Melvin P. Leffler and Stanley Goldberg — have noted that there is compelling evidence that diplomatic overtures, coupled with assurances on the postwar status of the emperor and the impending entry of the Soviet Union into the war, probably would have led the Japanese to surrender long before an American invasion could be mounted. Unfortunately, all this evidence dribbled out long after orthodoxy had taken root.

The million-casualty figure was first used by Secretary of War

Henry Stimson in a 1946 Harper's article, but without any supporting evidence. According to the historian James Herschberg, the figure "instantly became the orthodox defense for bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki." No scholar of the war has ever found archival evidence to substantiate claims that Harry Truman expected anything close to a million casualties.

Mr. Bernstein, a Stanford historian who has pored over declassified military planning documents, could not find a worst-case estimate of higher than 46,000 deaths.

J. Samuel Walker, the chief historian for the U.S. Regulatory Commission, has written that "the consensus is that the bomb was not needed to avoid an invasion of Japan." He said: "It is clear that alternatives to the bomb existed and that Truman and his advisers knew it."

Mr. Truman's diary, released in 1979, shows that he knew from decoded Japanese cables that the enemy was about to surrender.

In the diary, Mr. Truman referred to this intercepted intelligence as the cable from the "Emperor asking for peace." He wrote on July 17, 1945, that he believed Stalin would "be in the Jap war by August 15. Fini Japs when that comes about."

It would seem then that Mr. Truman realized that the war would end long before the United States could mount an invasion of the Japanese home islands, the first phase of which was not scheduled until Nov. 1.

Similarly, General Dwight Ei-

A New Test for U.S.-Japanese Trade

By Peter Behr

marks that will be used to assess that progress, such as current sales and market share figures compare to recent trends.

Said a Japanese Foreign Ministry official: "Our interpretation is, if the U.S. products are really competitive in the world market, then their value and share in the Japanese market will certainly increase."

The test of this agreement's effectiveness will be pretty simple. A year from now, call up Medtronic Inc., in Minneapolis, a billion-dollar manufacturer of pacemakers and other high-tech medical devices and ask how their sales to Japan are going.

As in particular, about the Medtronic PCD. It is an "implantable defibrillator" that can be placed within a patient who has suffered "sudden cardiac death syndrome," a near-fatal heart attack. If a new attack occurs, it sends out sharp electrical impulses to control the heart beat. Medtronic calls it a rescue squad in the patient's chest.

The device has been cleared on safety grounds in Japan (as it has been in America and Europe), but Japanese medical cost regulators have not yet included it on medical insurance reimbursement schedules, Medtronic says. Without reimbursement, few patients can afford the \$20,000-plus device.

When U.S. medical industry

officials see such delays, they suspect Japan of holding foreign products back until it can close its gap with the United States in medical technology.

Japanese officials deny such intent, saying that their caution in funding expensive new medical technologies is born in part by what has happened to health care costs in the United States.

In the past, the two countries' negotiators have chased each other round and round the table arguing about the meaning of such delays. As long as the question turned on the actions and motives of Japan's regulators, resolution was often out of reach.

Now the calculation will be more direct. Japan's negotiators agreed to a new approach for evaluating bids on medical contracts that will help U.S. manufacturers whose advanced devices cost more than rival Japanese products but also deliver added value. Japanese government ministries will formally urge government hospitals and medical institutions to consider purchasing foreign products — a signal that carries real weight.

Pistol Was Carried Between Sect Killings

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

GENEVA — Swiss police concluded Tuesday that one or more people participated in the deaths of 23 members of a religious sect in one Swiss village last week and then drove 150 kilometers through the night to another village, where soon afterward 25 more sect members lost their lives.

The police also confirmed the death of a second leader of the so-called Order of the Solar Temple, but investigators conceded they were still no closer to understanding what happened in the farming village of Cheiry and the mountain hamlet of Granges-sur-Salvan last week.

There is evidence of murder, not least in the bullet wounds in 20 of the 23 bodies found at Cheiry. And there are indications

that some victims committed suicide, not only in a letter in which one victim said she had come to Switzerland to die, but also in the sect's doomsday teachings.

On Tuesday, the police said a .22-caliber pistol with a silencer found at Granges-sur-Salvan was one of the weapons used at Cheiry, thus confirming that one or more people left Cheiry after the first deaths. But did he or they go to Granges-sur-Salvan to die or to oversee the next stage of the drama?

Without knowing whether he is alive, Swiss police are hunting the sect's spiritual leader, Luc Jouret, 46, a Belgian physician last seen in Granges-sur-Salvan on Oct. 4. If his body is among several badly burned victims still to be identified, the case will become even more baffling.

RUBLE: Russian Currency Plunges in Selling Frenzy

Continued from Page 1

borrowing rubles for speculation more expensive.

In official trading on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange, the ruble fell to 3.926 to the dollar on Monday, a decline of 21.5 percent. Later in the day, traders said dollars were selling for more than 4,000 rubles, and a few currency exchanges on the street for 5,000 rubles.

"It may have started as something else, but at this point the market is driven simply by excessively speculative forces and the way they see the actions of the authorities," said Maarten Pronk, the managing director in Moscow for ING Bank of the Netherlands.

Martin Andersson, the president of Brunswick, a Moscow-based, Swedish-owned brokerage firm, said the central bank would have to act forcefully to brake the ruble's decline over the next few days if it is to

retain any credibility in the market.

"If they take some decisive actions, that will be a very good sign," Mr. Andersson said. "If they passively watch the market destroy the value of the ruble, it will be a bad sign that will lead to higher inflation."

In Moscow, hard currency stores that accept rubles at the market rate closed down during the day, unwilling to accept the currency while it was falling several percent an hour.

"I wouldn't call it a panic, but just a very cruel reality," said Alexei A. Obozintsev, the head of hard currency operations at Tokobank, one of Russia's largest financial institutions. "It's an extraordinary change in the market situation that will have an effect on every Russian citizen."

Analysts said that it was difficult to explain the central bank's lack of aggressive response so far. They said that the government had been under

for four years, but they have hardly made a dent in its 385 hectares (960 acres). Currently, they are focused on the park's east end, about 300 meters from the Brandenburg Gate, because many new government facilities in Berlin will be built near there.

The 18-member team stakes out lanes and then glides back and forth with a metal detector, supposedly capable of detecting a bottle cap nearly six meters down. The men typically cover nearly 835 square meters (1,000 square yards) a day, at a cost to the city of roughly \$6,500.

STRIKE: Option for U.S.?

Continued from Page 1
cations facilities or intelligence directorates to shake the re-gime's leaders.

A cheaper ruble also would mean that new loans to industry and to cover the budget deficit would be worth less in dollar terms, making them less worrisome to such Western institutions as the International Monetary Fund.

Thick tactic, used last year in retaliation for an Iraqi plot to kill President George Bush, might be revived in a prolonged stand-off.

People might have to think again if Saddam starts playing a cat-and-mouse game, withdrawing his forces and then bringing them forward again a few weeks later," said Andrew Duncan, a retired colonel, who is now at the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London.

Mr. Saddam may have started a waiting game, hoping that by causing U.S. military costs to mount, Washington will make a deal on sanctions.

Faced with a war of psychological and economic attrition, the United States could seek to impose an exclusion zone in southern Iraq similar to the UN ban on heavy weapons around Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Officials said that before U.S. forces start knocking out Baghdad's equipment in southern Iraq, the Clinton administration would want backing from UN Security Council resolutions.

Right now, Mr. Duncan and most officials said, Kuwait can be defended with U.S. air power. U.S. ground forces arriving in Kuwait can use the crisis to check their prepositioned heavy equipment and help train Kuwaiti forces.

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AUSTRIA: Far-Right Leader Predicts Rise to Power

Continued from Page 1
made him a rising star on the Austrian political scene.

He called Tuesday for a ban on all immigration except for political refugees from the former Yugoslavia, saying "we should give no permission for people to come in until the level of unemployment here is reduced."

But Mr. Haider said he was willing to disassociate himself from such extreme right parties as the neo-Fascists in Italy, the Republicans in Germany and the National Front in France. He said he was grateful, however, for the congratulations offered this week by Jean-Marie Le Pen, the French far-right politician.

He contended that his natural allies in Europe included the Christian Democrats led by Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Germany, whom he said he had met.

He also denied that he was either a racist or a neo-Nazi, but he repeated earlier praise for the employment policies introduced in the 1930s by Hitler.

As far as Hitler-era employment policies are concerned,

Mr. Haider said he had already suffered the consequences of praising the Nazi leader.

"I was misunderstood," he said. "What I said was that between 1933 and 1936 Hitler had a successful policy on unemployment. I didn't mean to support Nazism."

On Tuesday, he claimed the real level of unemployment in Austria was 5.8 percent, rather than the officially stated level of 4.4 percent. Citing housing shortages in Vienna and a threat to jobs, he said "we have to stop immigration until unemployment is reduced to under 5 percent."

Although insisting that in some sections of Vienna "these foreigners are my friends," he also said that foreigners should not be allowed to account for more than 30 percent of classes in schools. He also argued that "the real problem is people from Turkey, India and North Africa who are involved in drugs and crime."

In response to Mr. Haider, an aide to Mr. Vranitzky said Tuesday night: "Mr. Haider's accusations are completely unfounded when it comes to the

figure he gives on unemployment, and we will fight his policies on immigration and on the European Union."

Mr. Haider said he was unhappy with the terms negotiated for Austria's forthcoming membership in the European Union, especially on issues concerning agriculture and the environment.

Seeking to portray himself as a moderate "liberal conservative" in favor of privatization, health care and social security reforms, and a free market economy, Mr. Haider accused Mr. Vranitzky of failing to govern in recent years. "He has governed by nondecision," he said.

Mr. Haider made clear that he would remain in opposition as long as the Austrian People's Party is led by Vice Chancellor Erhard Busch. But Alois Mock, a fellow member of the Austrian People's Party and Austria's foreign minister, said in an interview Tuesday that while he expected his party to form a new coalition with Mr. Vranitzky's Social Democrats, he would not rule out a future alliance with Mr. Haider.

ing, the bright red car will sit on a dealership lot. The officer was not identified.

Why are babies especially lovable when they're asleep? Aside from the fact that they're less troublesome that way, Robert Wright, a geneticist and author of "The Moral Animal," told The Washington Post, it may be all in the genes — that parents are programmed to keep a close eye on sleeping babies since they are especially vulnerable then, unable to cry and crawl away at the approach of danger.

The teachers' union, the Lake County Education Association, had sued to throw out the cultural superiority policy, contending it violates a state law requiring the teaching of respect and appreciation for other cultures.

Short Takes

A New York policewoman trying to blend in at a bar bought a beer, which qualified her for a drawing for a \$14,000 Plymouth Neon automobile. She won. "There are people within the department who take a conservative view that she shouldn't keep the car," Deputy Commissioner Walter Mack said. "I'm hoping the Board of Ethics determines she can keep it." Until there's a rul-

ing, the bright red car will sit on a dealership lot. The officer was not identified.

For years, she has loved parties. For weeks, she has been Truly Boring. It happened when Truly Gold married Cary S. Boring last month and took his name. "I'm really not boring," said Mrs. Boring, 24. "I can be the life of any party." But, she says, "People are already coming up with names for children we could have." The most frequent suggestions: Really, Very and Totally.

International Herald Tribune.

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Gamble by a Desperate Saddam Sanctions Viewed as Forcing Dramatic Action

By Elaine Sciolino
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — President Saddam Hussein's latest confrontation with the United States illustrates both the success and the failure of Washington's handling of the Iraqi leader.

The success is that two successive administrations have managed to maintain crippling sanctions on Iraq that have cre-

NEWS ANALYSIS

ated an economic crisis so desperate that Mr. Saddam felt cornered. But instead of recognizing the sovereignty and the borders of Kuwait, a condition set by the United Nations for easing the sanctions, he moved 70,000 troops toward the country that his troops invaded in 1990.

That troop mobilization highlights the policy failure: Three years after the end of the Gulf War, Mr. Saddam remains firmly entrenched in power.

The result is that even if Iraq is pulling its troops away from Kuwait, Mr. Saddam will have proved once again that he can force the United States to send tens of thousands of troops to confront him; if he is not removed from power, he will prove he is a political survivor as well.

In his 15 years as president, Mr. Saddam has ruled by ruthlessly suppressing all opposition. But his government does not rule by terror alone. It has survived because it has always been supple enough to respond to the basic physical needs of the people. The philosophy of governing is best expressed in two Arabic words: *turab* (terror) and *targhib* (enticement).

But in the past year, that delicate structure has crumbled.

"There was only terrorizing," said Amatzia Baranai, chairman of the Department of Middle East History at Haifa University. "There was no longer enticement."

Mr. Saddam was forced by the sanctions to allow the United Nations to scrap his weapons of mass destruction, set up an elaborate and humiliating monitoring system of his arms industry, and take increasingly tough economic measures that hurt the Iraqi people, fueled discontent and brought him to what some Iraqi scholars say was an inevitable decision to take dramatic action...

After retail prices soared last year, Mr. Saddam decided to accept Security Council Resolution 715, which set up the weapons-inspection system; as a result of his compliance, he promised his people, sanctions would "dissipate."

Instead, the sanctions remained in place, and prices soared again. Even Mr. Saddam's son Uday used his newspaper, *Babil*, to criticize officials who promoted compliance with the UN demands, although he never attacked the father by name.

After the Iraqi dinar lost half its value in May, Uday Hussein criticized Iraq's prime minister and finance minister for their inability to control inflation.

So Mr. Saddam added the portfolio of prime minister to his responsibilities as president, commander-in-chief and head of the Arab Socialist Party. He also turned the ruling Revolutionary Command Council into an economic body that made decisions on such issues as how much sugar should cost.

The economic crisis worsened last month, when the Security Council again decided not to lift the sanctions. On Sept. 25, Mr. Saddam halved monthly food rations, and food prices doubled in one day.

The economic pressure coincided with mounting political pressure. In September of last year, there were reports that a bomb had exploded in front of Mr. Saddam's motorcade in Baghdad; last May, a car bomb exploded at a place where his motorcade was expected to pass.

Purges and executions followed each incident, and during recent months, Mr. Saddam has even purged officials from the Druze clan, a center of his support, and the clan of Izzat Ibrahim, officially his second in command.

He has answered each setback with more stringent proclamations: He has imposed strict Islamic punishments of amputations of a hand or a foot for thievery and has announced that deserters from the armed forces risk losing one or both ears. A repeat deserter may have an "X" branded on his forehead.

"Iraq has been a sleeper," said Phebe Marr, a senior fellow at the National Defense University and a historian who has written extensively on Iraq.

IRAQ: U.S. Wants Exclusion Zone

Continued from Page 1
ing that American officials were eager to hear other ideas from the Security Council members.

"We are looking at ways to kind of move them back and make sure that they stay behind a certain area so that we are not faced with this kind of thing again," a senior U.S. official said.

Defense Secretary William J. Perry called a weapons exclusion zone "a viable option" and said it could be patrolled from the air "for some number of years, depending on the situation."

Mr. Perry said late Monday that the United States could not accept and would not accept the possibility of being "pinned down" in the Gulf.

After Mr. Clinton's order Monday night sending B-52 bombers, F-117 Stealth fighters and scores of other military aircraft to the Gulf, American officials appeared on television Tuesday to reiterate that the Pentagon and White House were considering a military strike.

"Definitely, we are talking about a preemptive strike," Mrs. Albright said. She said the United States, under existing UN resolutions, had the authority to act alone but could turn to the Security Council for "additional support."

Pressure for the creation of a broader exclusion zone in

southern Iraq resulted from Washington's urgent desire to avoid situations in which Mr. Saddam could repeatedly provoke an expensive and risky U.S. deployment to the Gulf. Mr. Clinton declared in a brief televised speech Monday night that Mr. Saddam could not be trusted and that "actions, not words" would guide U.S. decision making.

"We will not allow Iraq to threaten its neighbors or to intimidate the United Nations," Mr. Clinton said.

According to U.S. cabinet officials, the exclusion zone could ban tanks, artillery and other armored weapons.

Since the end of the Gulf War, an exclusion zone has existed prohibiting Iraqi aircraft below the 32d parallel, roughly the southern third of Iraq. A similar no-fly zone exists in northern Iraq.

Aircraft from the Gulf War coalition, primarily from the United States, Britain and France, have been patrolling those exclusion zones for years and could be given orders to destroy any heavy ground weapons in the zone, U.S. officials indicated Tuesday.

General Shafikashvili said that a heavy-weapons exclusion zone in the Iraqi desert would be easier to police than a similar UN exclusion zone around the mountainous Bosnian capital, Sarajevo.

BOOKS

FACTORIES OF DEATH: Japanese Biological Warfare 1932-45 and the American Cover-Up

By Sheldon Harris. 297 pages. \$25. Roulleide.

Reviewed by George Hicks

In 1981, the American newspaperman John Powell opened the eyes of the English reading world with a series of articles on Japan's biological warfare experiments and attempts by the United States to conceal all knowledge of it. Eight years later, the British journalists Peter Williams and David Wallace published what appeared at the time to be a definitive work: "Unit 731: Japan's Secret Biological Warfare in World War II."

Can there be anything new to say? The decade that Professor Sheldon Harris, a U.S. historian, has devoted to the subject

has not been wasted. Barring the unlikely discovery of major new primary sources, his will surely be the classic work for many years to come.

The story he tells is basically similar to that of Williams and Wallace. Japanese biological and chemical warfare stations in Manchuria and China used human beings as guinea pigs. Many thousands, mainly Chinese, died dreadful deaths.

In return for information on the Japanese research, U.S. authorities secretly granted immunity from prosecution to the Japanese organizers of the program. No one was prosecuted for these crimes in the Tokyo war trials.

The years Harris spent in archives around the world has paid off in a wealth of new detail both on the cover-up and the death factories. They cunningly took full advantage of the Cold War, playing on American fears that if immunity was not grant-

ously unrecorded. However, the book lacks photographs, which is a pity.

Nonetheless, Harris shows convincingly that although many thousands died in the Japanese vivisection and germ test experiments, the scientific achievements were minimal. Starting a decade or so after Japan and without the benefit of human guinea pigs, American scientists rapidly caught up and surpassed the Japanese effort.

Huge sums were spent by Japan on bacteriological warfare projects. Thousands of highly qualified experts were involved. But nothing was produced that proved to be a valuable weapon of war.

The United States quite unnecessarily gave immunity to Shiro Ishii, the evil genius who masterminded the program and his colleagues. They cunningly took full advantage of the Cold War, playing on American fears that if immunity was not grant-

Journalists Are Beaten Near Basra

Compiled by Our Staff From Duparcles

BASRA, Iraq — Journalists heading to the Kuwait border on a trip organized by the Iraqi government were ambushed, robbed and threatened with death by gunmen in southern Iraq.

Instead, he has always said that Iraq's isolation from the sea was a cruel accident of colonial history.

It is not surprising that he found it particularly galling after the Gulf War when the United Nations formally redrew the Kuwaiti border to give part of Iraq's only port, at Umm Qasr, to Kuwait.

"Had Saddam come up with a satisfactory statement on Kuwait, the coalition would have softened further and compelled the United States to confront the sanctions issue," said Ms. Marr. "But he didn't, and my interpretation is that he wasn't close to it yet."

(AP, Reuters)

Iraqi Acts Shed Doubt on Lifting Ban

By Julia Preston
Washington Post Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Iraq's military maneuvers near Kuwait have soured its chances for a sympathetic hearing anytime soon on lifting the oil embargo, diplomats said Tuesday. But the United Nations Security Council remains divided over whether to ease the sanctions at a later date.

One of Saddam Hussein's apparent purposes in moving troops toward Kuwait was to show frustration with the sanctions and give an idea of what Iraq was capable of doing if the oil embargo was not eased.

The journalists were traveling by bus to report on the tensions at the border when five gunmen stopped their bus on the highway. They robbed the passengers, including journalists from Reuters, CNN and Agence France-Presse, of television cameras, watches, jewelry and at least \$4,500 in cash.

Ironically, Iraq's troop movements wrecked its prospects for reaping immediate gains from the one area in which it has shown good will: the destruction of its most lethal weapons.

One catalyst to the current crisis was a six-month report issued Tuesday by the UN commission overseeing the dismantling of weapons. The chairman of the commission, Rolf Ekeus, reported that a system for long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons industry was "provisionally operational." The report, which Mr. Ekeus

called "fundamentally positive," concluded that there was "cause for optimism" if Iraq continued with "the same level of cooperation" that it had given so far. The panel said it had accounted for all of Iraq's Scud missiles, destroyed its chemical weapons and largely crippled its biological capabilities.

"My honest assessment is we had an excellent chance to get lifting or easing, say, in a six-months' time period," Mr. Ekeus said. "Now the trust in Iraq may be undermined by the steps they took."

Russia and France, two of the five permanent Security Council members, had been prepared to give Iraq a public pat on the back for its weapons progress as the first diplomatic step toward easing sanctions. But neither country was ready to say any kind word about Baghdad this week.

The United States jumped on the chance to reinforce its argument that Iraq should get no break from the sanctions until it had established a clear record of compliance with the full range of UN resolutions.

Washington's view is that before the oil embargo can be reconsidered, Baghdad must stop its attacks on Kurdish and Shiite minorities; recognize the UN-drawn borders and the sovereignty of Kuwait; return Kuwaiti prisoners and property, and improve its human rights record.



Kuwaiti officials visiting the French frigate Georges Leygues after it arrived Tuesday in Kuwait City's port.

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China Sends 3 Dissidents to Labor Camps

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SHANGHAI — Three dissidents have been sentenced to three-year terms of "re-education through labor," their relatives said Tuesday.

Families of Yang Zhou and Bao Ge were told by the authorities on Tuesday that the two men, leading human-rights campaigners, had been given three-year sentences.

Public Security Bureau agents earlier told the family of another activist, Yang Qinbing, that he, too, had been sentenced to three years, dissident sources said Tuesday.

In all three cases, relatives were handed a terse written oo-

tice that gave no reasons for the punishments.

"Re-education through labor" is a form of administrative detention. Three years is the maximum penalty, although in practice this can be extended on a year-by-year basis.

Western human-rights organizations said China was increasingly using the punishment as a way to silence its dissidents without attracting the attention of a formal trial. Re-education was formerly used against minor criminals.

Yang Zhou was arrested May 12 by the police, who dragged him from his home. Mr. Bao and Yang Qinbing disappeared

at about the same time and relatives have not been allowed to see them since.

Their sentences are calculated from the time they were detained.

Yang Zhou is a founder member of the Shanghai-based Association for Human Rights. Mr. Bao has angered authorities with his persistent demands for compensation from Japan for Chinese victims of Japanese wartime atrocities. Yang Qinbing is a businessman.

All three have had long spells in jail for their roles in the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations and an earlier round of pro-democracy agitation in the late 1970s.

Li Guopin, the wife of Yang Zhou, said the police talked to her for more than three hours, dodged her questions and would not give a clear explanation of why Mr. Yang had been sentenced.

Li Guopin said her husband's actions had been completely legal, and that she was at a loss as to the reason for the punishment. She said he was weak and in poor health.

Virtually every member of Shanghai's small dissident community is under administrative detention. (Reuters, AP)

Travel Industry Largely Snubs Appeal by India

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW DELHI — Foreign airlines and hotel operators have rejected an Indian government appeal to slash fares and rates in a bid to lure back tourists scared away by an outbreak of plague, industry sources said Tuesday.

Except for Air-India and Air France, which offered free travel to journalists and tour operators, other airlines flying to India have rejected the tourism department's call issued at the height of the epidemic.

Airline executives, hoteliers and tour operators met with Indian officials over the weekend to try to devise a strategy to restore the country's image as a vacation

spot, but said they would not slash rates. "The consensus was that discounting may not be the right answer now," said Gauri Shankar Dhar, India's deputy tourism chief. He described the meeting as inconclusive.

October is the start of the peak cool-weather travel season in India, which runs through March.

The plague outbreak has cast a shadow over the government's plans to host the world's largest cancer conference here, beginning Oct. 27, industry sources said.

Some 7,000 experts were expected to attend the conference but organizers say cancellations of up to 20 percent were

expected now because of the plague scare and the lack of assurances that the disease had been eradicated.

Fifty-six people have died of pneumonic plague since the first case of the disease was diagnosed in the western city of Surat more than three weeks ago.

The World Health Organization said Tuesday that the outbreak in Surat was rapidly coming to an end and that there was no sign of any new eruption of the disease.

"WHO's advice to travelers is unchanged," according to a statement by the organization. "There is no restriction for travelers visiting India."

(AFP, Reuters)

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INTERNATIONAL

ARTISTS

Wanted: Various

industries

machinery

machines

STAGE/ENTERTAINMENT

International Herald Tribune
Wednesday, October 12, 1994
Page 9

Tomorrow the World: The Rise of the Almeida Playhouse

By Matt Wolf

LONDON — Inside a small south London theater off a street where drunks jostle for space with yuppies, some amazing careers are taking shape. The playhouse is the 303-seat Almeida, a one-time music hall whose modest auditorium has become a talking point of the British — and increasingly, the international — theater.

That its rise comes at a time of contraction for the arts in England, where theaters up and down the country are cutting corners and playing safe, honors the co-artistic directors, Ian MacDiarmid, 50, and Jonathan Kent, 45. The men, who became friends more than 20 years ago when they first worked together at Glasgow's Citizens' Theatre, inherited a playhouse devoted mostly to booking productions from abroad. Since they took over late in 1989, the MacDiarmid-Kent team has turned the

Almeida into a self-generating enterprise that now regularly sends plays to the West End and beyond.

Next year, the theater launches its most ambitious project yet: an international tour of "Hamlet," directed by Kent and starring Ralph Fiennes in his first stage role since the films "Schindler's List" and Robert Redford's current "Quiz Show" made him a Hollywood star.

This will be the first Almeida staging to open away from its Islington base — at the 1,000-seat Hackney Empire in working-class East London — opening Feb. 28. From London, "Hamlet" embarks on a short European tour before traveling to Broadway where it is expected to open in time for the Tony Award nominations — and, presumably, to scoop quite a few.

And lest the venture seem cynically motivated — a case of let's grab-a-film-star-while-he's-hot — MacDiarmid and Kent

emphasize that their "Hamlet" furthers the spirit of adventure on which their regime was founded.

"This can be a great forum for reviving a career, or giving it that extra launch," MacDiarmid, a quiet-spoken Scot, said. He was joined for an interview by Kent and the Almeida's general manager, Jonathan Reekie, 30.

"The genesis of it wasn't, 'Blimey, Ralph has just done a movie, let's bag him,'" said Kent. Instead, he said, Fiennes approached him two years ago about returning to Shakespeare in a fresh context from the Royal Shakespeare Company, where he got his start.

"It may sound arrogant," said Kent, "but the only policy we have is to do the plays we like and admire and to work with the people we admire. Ralph's astonishing rise has obviously given the production more latitude."

While larger subsidized companies like

the Royal National Theatre and the RSC seem wary of tackling too broad a European repertoire, many of the Almeida's greatest successes have been in lesser-known plays by Luigi Pirandello ("The Rules of the Game"), Jean Anouilh ("The Rehearsal," which transferred to the West End) and Henrik Ibsen ("When We Dead Awaken").

"Molly Sweeney," a chamber piece for three actors, well-suited to the intimate venue; Friel makes his directing debut with the play, a co-production with Dublin's Gate Theatre. The play will complete an Irish autumn begun in September with an acclaimed revival of J. M. Synge's classic "The Playboy of the Western World."

Said Kent: "We've been spoiled by

EW plays are important, too. The Almeida is where Harold Pinter decided in September 1993 to open his newest play, "Moonlight," a mournful, oblique piece about an irascible dying father. The American dramatists Han Ong and Phyllis Nagy have both premiered work at the theater, and Kent has a long-standing interest in two other, older American writers — Thomas Babe ("Taken in Marriage") and Lanford Wilson ("The Fifth of July").

In November, the Almeida hosts the British premiere of Brian Friel's new play

Reekie's "A Hard Heart" and the Ben Travers farce "The Bed Before Yesterday" closed early because of poor attendance. And since the theater budgets for 77 percent attendance, every flop means, Reekie said, that "we have to sell out four shows in order to recoup."

Indeed, MacDiarmid emphasizes that greater public and industry recognition doesn't necessarily mean an end to financial worry, especially since the Almeida carries a deficit of £50,000. Five years ago, he said, the theater wouldn't have done "Hamlet," "because we'd be panicking about being able to afford the production."

"That panic hasn't disappeared," MacDiarmid continued. "One of the disadvantages of being internationally known is that people assume you're rich."

Matt Wolf is an American theater critic and journalist based in London.

Not every play succeeds. Howard Bark-

From Hollywood Back to Bombay

By Alexandra Viets

BOMBAY — Soon Taraporevala, best known as the screenwriter of the critically acclaimed "Salaam Bombay" and "Mississippi Masala," lives in an apartment along the railway lines where the steady hum of trains from Bombay's Grant Road station can be heard outside her window.

Born and raised a Parsi, Taraporevala has returned home to Bombay, after nearly 20 years abroad. The Parsis, also known as Zoroastrians, who originally came from Persia, are a tiny and rapidly declining community of 125,000, the vast majority of whom are concentrated in Bombay. Taraporevala lives on a Parsi street and in a Parsi building that is only minutes from where she grew up. Surrounded by photographs of her family, Taraporevala writes her screenplays in a small neat room that once belonged to her grandmother, a man who was a great source of inspiration to her as child. "I'm home," she says with a smile. "It's like a dream come true."

Taraporevala's most recent script is an adaptation of a novel by the Paris author Rohinton Mistry, "Such a Long Journey." Mistry's novel, which was short-listed for the Booker Prize in 1991, chronicles the life of Gustad Noble, an honest bank clerk, and his family, who live in the midst of a crowded Parsi colony in Bombay. Noble, whose journey is mixed with humor and sadness, struggles to come to terms with a series of seeming betrayals that have deeply offended his sense of loyalty and honor. Extremely visual, the novel is rich with-

description of the daily rituals of Parsi life and full of Dickensian characters Taraporevala say remind her of home.

Currently in preproduction, "Such a Long Journey" will be released as a Canaan-British co-production and is scheduled to begin shooting in December.

Taraporevala's own journey began as only child in a typical Parsi home with a large family not unlike the Nobles. Despite being an only child, Taraporevala was always surrounded by relatives and family friends, living in a tightly knit community, which she credits for her success. She recalls storytelling uncles, doting grandparents and regular vacations with 20 or more. "A whole horde . . . I loved it. I loved growing up that way."

This is not the first time that Taraporevala has taken on a project concerning the Parsi community. A photographer of some repute who has had her work exhibited internationally, she has gradually collected a portfolio of photographs on the Parsis, which she plans to publish. The project began as an attempt to capture the life of a community in rapid decline.

"Every time I came home," she said, "there were less of us . . . My own family has been cut in half in just one generation."

"In both black and white and color, many of her images seem to be portraits of the very old and the very young: a boy being initiated into the priesthood, an old man with his back to the camera as he prays to the sea on 'Ava Roj,' a day on the Parsi calendar devoted to the spirit of water.

Like Noble's son who leaves home in "Such a Long Journey" determined to pursue a career in art, Taraporevala left

India for the first time on a scholarship to study literature at Harvard in 1975. It was there that she met another Indian woman, Mira Nair, who became a friend, collaborator and the future director of "Salaam Bombay" and "Mississippi Masala."

After Harvard, both women moved to New York, Taraporevala to get a master's degree in cinema studies from the New York University film school and Nair to begin work on her documentaries. It wasn't until 1986, 11 years after they first met, when both women were in India watching a screening of Nair's documentaries, that Taraporevala and Nair decided to work together on "Salaam Bombay," their first feature film.

Launched by the success of "Salaam Bombay," Taraporevala went onto Los Angeles making a living writing scripts for HBO cable and a variety of production companies. During the period in Los Angeles most of the scripts she worked on were never made into films. She recalls that a script on Vietnam war stories was considered "too ambitious" and a script on homeless children "too depressing."

When Taraporevala left Hollywood to return to Bombay, she says, she realized she had already spent half her life abroad and it was time to come home. To her surprise, 10 days after she arrived she got a call from her agent with a new project. Since then, the work hasn't stopped.

"But even if it hadn't worked out, it was not a sacrifice to come back. Bombay was always home."

Alexandra Viets is a writer based in India.

From Chloé, All Sugar and Lace

By Suzy Menkes
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — After a few uncertain seasons, Karl Lagerfeld got into his stride at Chloé. But it was more of a dainty little step. The collection was sugar sweet, with no fabric stiffer than the consistency of whipped cream. It was very finely crafted. But

PARIS FASHION

the show lacked the urgency, the modernity, the cut and thrust of forward fashion that are Lagerfeld's signature.

"Very refined and sophisticated — nothing casual about it," said Lagerfeld, to explain the spun-sugar fabrics and lace knits. Galler's turn-of-the-century glass was the inspiration for the translucent colors, which included watery green, amber and a silvery-mauve.

The show started with sinuous lace knits with midcalf hemlines decorated with delicate silver bugs as jewelry. The only tailoring was in the softest crepe with ripples of satin skirt underneath. Otherwise it was all frills and lace and hats in butterfly-wing gauze.

Chloé is primarily an evening wear collection, and as an exercise in style it was romantic, with ombré-colored chiffons, flower-patterned tunics and lace dance dresses. Yet even when embroidered jackets went with flared pants or dresses opened over undies, the show seemed dedicated to decorative women of a different era.

How to put the feminine back into fashion without looking retrograde? In her powerful Comme des Garçons show, Rei Kawakubo made womanly clichés of ruffles and frills seem modern. First apron-skirts subtly feminized pantsuits. Then frilled aprons were tied back-to-front, giving ruffles to the back of a jacket. Makeup was pretty, with ruby lips and pin-curled hair. As the show advanced, so did the wave of frills: at jacket hem, as the tulip underskirt of a simple dress, in layers like piped cream on a satin skirt under strict tailoring.

In its dairy freshness of milk white and buttercream cotton, with its focus on rippling ruffles breaking out of sleek tailoring, the show succeeded in presenting prettiness in a forceful way. Although some of the tailoring was weird, it could also produce perfect modern classics — like the crisp naval jackets salted with gilt buttons.

The further Yohji Yamamoto digs back to his Japanese roots, the more dazzling his collections become. The show he sent out Tuesday was an ode to the kimono and to the dress. The show ended with an ovation as two kimono robes in fiery red and gold were followed by 18 black dresses, all different, but cut to take their shapes, kimono-like, from the body. Other dresses were given touches of color and decoration: batik patterns, or the fabric dyed in patches and then twisted into shapes like paper flowers.

There was not a single pant-suit. The only vestige of sports-wear were play suits with shorts, and they came under the floating kimono robes that were the central subject of a feminine, romantic, modern and impressive show.

When a slender tomato-red dress walked down the runway at Mario Chanet — and then transformed itself by untying strings into an ankle-length bias-cut slip, it seemed symbolic of a show where nothing was quite what it seemed. By wrapping and tying asymmetric skirts, by stitching deep-pile fabrics into taut jacket shapes or by giving wide-legged pants a glazed surface, the design duo gave resonance to simple clothes that looked to the future rather than the past.

AT Nina Ricci, designer Miriam Schaefer took a bow — knotted at the tail of a curving



Ruffled lace dance dress for Chloé by Lagerfeld.

auction sales

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Wednesday, October 12, 1994

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Thursday-Friday, October 13-14, 1994

Rooms 7 at 2:15 p.m. - 17th to 19th Century FAR EASTERN AND COLLECTABLES AND PRIVATE COLLECTION. Expert Mr. Pradier. On view Wednesday, October 12, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, October 13, Friday, October 14, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ADER JAHAN, 57, rue des Mathurins, 75008 PARIS. Tel: (33) 30 30 30 30 - Fax: (33) 33 30 30 31. In NEW YORK please contact Kelly Malouf & Co. Inc. 16 East 56th Street, Suite 1000, New York, NY 10020. Phone: (212) 737 35 97 / 737 35 13 - Fax: (212) 961 14 34.

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Rooms 5 at 2 p.m. — FURNITURE AND OBJECTS PARIS. MILLON-ROBERT, 19, rue de la Grange Blanche, 75009 PARIS. Tel: (33) 40 59 41 - Fax: (33) 40 98 98.



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NYSE

Tuesday's Closing
Tables include the nationwide prices up to
the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect
late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press



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BUSINESS

International Herald Tribune, Wednesday, October 12, 1994

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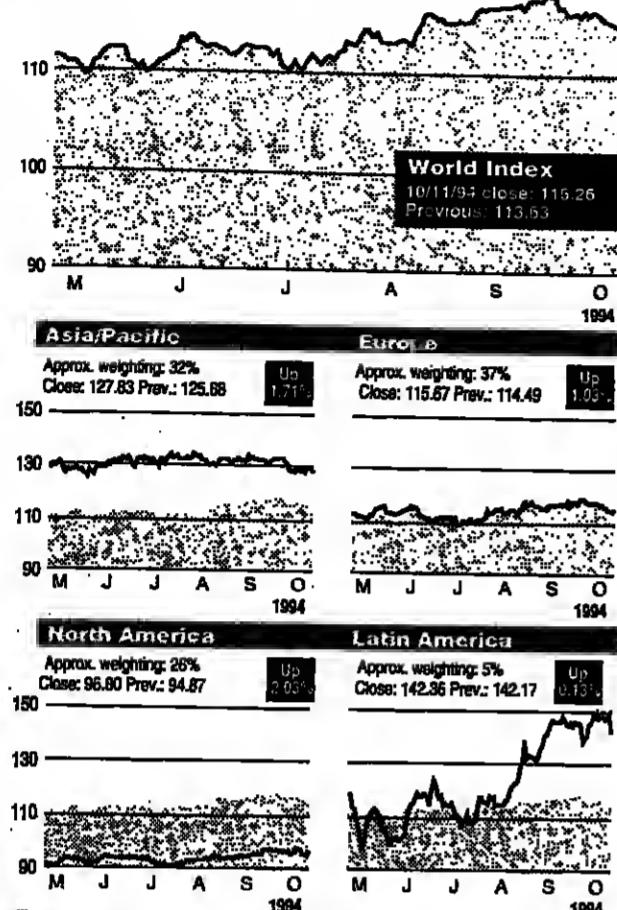
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THE TRIB INDEX: 115.26

International Herald Tribune World Stock Index, composed of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries, compiled by Bloomberg Business News. Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.

120



The index tracks U.S. dollar values of stocks in Tokyo, New York, London, and Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela. For Tokyo, New York and London, the index is composed of the top 20 issues in terms of market capitalization, otherwise the top 10 stocks are tracked.

Industrial Sectors

	Tue. close	Prev. close	% change		Tue. close	Prev. close	% change
Energy	114.26	113.33	+0.82	Capital Goods	115.98	113.81	+1.91
Utilities	127.77	126.74	+0.81	New Materials	133.91	133.22	+0.52
Finance	116.02	114.18	+0.73	Consumer Goods	104.88	103.08	+1.73
Services	118.80	115.37	+2.91	Miscellaneous	122.55	121.57	+0.72

For more information, contact the bookend available free of charge. Write to Trib Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92321 Neuilly Cedex, France.

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MEDIA MARKETS

New (Inter)faces on Screen

By Mark Potts

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Big changes are coming to the way users interact with their personal computers. The result will be sophisticated interfaces that will make computers easier to use.

Both of the major personal computer operating systems — Windows and Macintosh — will undergo major revisions in the next year or so that will significantly change the way they appear to the user.

Just over the horizon are even more changes in interface design that could make even the newest Windows and Macintosh systems look as antiquated as, well, MS-DOS.

Future computers may be based on interfaces that represent what they are doing more graphically, replacing the standard arrangement of folders and files with much richer, easier-to-control displays that provide lots of information at a glance.

"The future of the desktop is to be much more visual," said Ben Shneiderman, a specialist in interface design who runs the Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory at the University of Maryland. "We're stuck in the valley of 1984."

That was the year Apple Computer Inc. introduced the Macintosh and popularized the concept of graphical interfaces that made the computer screen look like a desktop, with files, folders and a trash can.

Inspired by work done at Xerox Corp.'s

Palo Alto Research Center a decade before,

the Macintosh interface, in turn, paved the way for Windows, by Microsoft Corp., and began the death knell for MS-DOS.

The coming Windows 95, on Chicago, due out next year, cleans up the familiar Windows interface. It adds several sorely needed features, such as flexibility in dragging files from one window to another on the screen, and eliminates Windows' greatest problem: its reliance on MS-DOS to do most of its dirty work.

Apple is worried. The company is feverishly working on technology to leapfrog Microsoft's new system. Forget the recently released System 7.5, which makes mostly cosmetic changes in the Macintosh interface and operating system. The real change in Apple's famous interface will come when the company unleashes System 8, code name Copland, in about a year.

System 8 will be a radical reworking of Apple's interface. According to MacWeek magazine, System 8 will make folders easier to work with and add computerized "agents" to automate routine tasks. It will provide more information about individual files and let users customize their desktops.

Windows 95 and System 8 may seem like big changes to the rest of us, but Mr. Shneiderman of the University of Maryland is not impressed. "You're wasting too much time opening and closing and dragging and resizing windows," he said. "To me, the evolution is away from the computer and toward a user's tasks."

Some of the experiments percolating in Mr. Shneiderman's lab hint at what he is talking about.

For instance, Mr. Shneiderman and his group of researchers and graduate students have come up with a novel way of viewing

See INTERFACE, Page 13.

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MARKET DIARY

Stocks and Bonds Bolster the Dollar

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The dollar finished slightly higher against most other major currencies Tuesday, profiting mainly from the performance of stock and bonds, as the market awaited more economic data.

Sixty-four of Iraq's troops were moving away from the border

Foreign Exchange

with Kuwait had damaged the dollar's earlier gains.

Analysts and traders said developments between Iraq and the United States had little effect on the dollar.

The dollar typically benefits in times of international conflict as investors seek a haven for their funds.

Traders were also reluctant to bet too aggressively on the dollar's prospects before the release of inflation and plant-use

reports. Those will give them fresh insight into whether prices in the U.S. are rising enough to prompt the Federal Reserve to raise rates soon, analysts said.

The dollar closed at 1.5448 Deutsche marks, flat from Monday, and at 102.00 yen, down from 100.38 yen.

The dollar rose to 5.2850 French francs from 5.2830 francs Monday and to 1.2886 Swiss francs from 1.2829. The pound was at \$1.5795, down from \$1.5853.

An analyst at MCM CurrencyWatch, Win Thin, said he expected the dollar to stay firmly bid at current levels through the week in anticipation of firm bond prices.

The possibility that optimism about a resolution to the Middle East tensions may have been overdone helped underpin the dollar earlier, analysts said.

(AFX, AFP, Bloomberg)

MARKET: Earnings Lift Stocks

Continued from Page 1

bad news flitting with levels of around 8 percent, have dropped since last Friday. On Tuesday, the yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell to 7.86 percent from 7.90 percent on Monday.

There was little sentiment on Wall Street that the Tuesday rally represented a reversal of the market's underlying bearish trend. Christine Calies, stock strategist for Brown Brothers

U.S. Stocks

Harriman, said she expected the market to pick up through the autumn but did not expect it to head much higher in 1995 because stocks were already well priced. Some traders may take the opportunity to bail out of financial and other overpriced stocks, she warned, saying this was "a traders' rally rather than an investors' rally."

"This has been a bad market to rationalize, and it has been very volatile, but now you have a good general performance by companies across the board, and that brought buyers back in a big way," said Laszlo Biryini, whose consulting firm tracks large trades.

The market emerged from last week's gloom and doom that you could cut with a knife," according to Hugh Johnson of First Albany Securities. "People sold and raised

their cash positions. The only thing missing was something to strike a spark and bring them back in."

A report by Motorola late Monday did it. The company, whose share surged 1% to 54¢ on Tuesday, said its third-quarter earnings jumped 50 percent on a 28 percent increase in sales powered by worldwide demand for its cellular telephones.

On Tuesday morning, Chrysler started the parade by announcing its jump in sales and profits.

Chrysler, which rose 2% to 46¢, has been the most profitable of the three U.S. automakers in recent years. When it reported higher sales volume, stock in Ford and General Motors rose because those companies are also expected to report improved sales and profits.

Just as in the automobile industry, Texas Instruments and Microsoft stock rose in the wake of Motorola's good news. Apple Computer reported higher earnings on demand for its new notebook systems, and its stock continued to rise on rumors that it was striking a deal with IBM to make the companies' computer systems compatible.

Procter & Gamble climbed to close at 2% to 62¢, PepsiCo surged 2% to 34¢, and Apple rose 2% to 39¢.

Volume on the Big Board surged to 355.53 million shares Tuesday from 213.11 million shares Monday.

The defense of the currency has indeed been costly. Victor

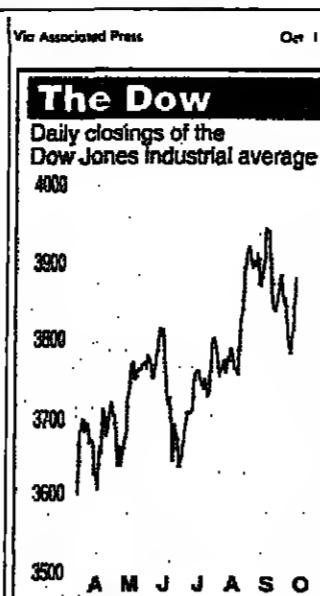
K. Gerashchenko, the head of the Russian central bank, said

that familiar nemesis of many Western governments. "This policy shift is very difficult to manage for the central bank," explained Susanne Gahler, an economist with J. P. Morgan in London, referring to the bid to devalue. "It is facing a substantial speculative attack on the part of individual commercial structures."

Whatever the cause of the ruble's decline, there is clear unanimity on the remedy — sharply higher

interest rates. By hiking the cost of borrowing, the government can send needed signals that it is both concerned with and in control of the situation. At the same time, higher interest rates would be seen breaking the economy and thus lessening the danger of inflation rocketing upwards on the back of higher import prices.

While everyone agreed that the speed of the ruble's decline was harmful, many analysts



The Dow
Daily closings of the
Dow Jones Industrial average

4000

3900

3800

3700

3600

3500

A M J J A S O

1994

IHT

NYSE Indexes

High Low Last Chg.

Composite 2,455 2,452 2,454 + 2.34

Industrials 322,07 321,36 322,45 - 2.39

Trans. 226,95 227,25 226,97 + 2.45

Utility 209,48 209,48 209,48 + 0.00

Finance 422,08 422,04 421,54 + 4.62

SP 100 1,000 999,98 1,000,00 + 0.00

Forward 1,000,00 1,000,00 1,000,00 + 0.00

Est. volume: 51,800 Open Int: 181,422

IHT

NASDAQ Indexes

High Low Last Chg.

Composite 746,94 746,71 746,12 - 0.31

Industrials 777,78 772,76 774,20 + 6.35

Trans. 737,79 737,73 737,88 + 1.10

Finance 702,52 698,97 701,16 - 2.11

Forward 700,00 698,00 700,00 + 0.00

Est. volume: 51,800 Open Int: 181,422

IHT

AMEX Stock Index

High Low Last Chg.

457,84 455,00 455,78 - 1.77

Est. volume: 51,800 Open Int: 181,422

IHT

Dow Jones Bond Averages

Close Chg.

30 Bonds 90,93 + 0.03

10 Utilities 101,09 + 0.37

10 Industrials 100,00 + 0.00

IHT

NASDAQ Most Actives

Vol. High Low Last Chg.

Novell 8,250 1,426 1,415 - 1.00

Apple 7,310 1,414 1,404 - 35.95

Intel 2,972 1,264 1,264 + 0.00

Microsoft 2,972 1,264 1,264 + 0.00

Sunsoft 5,147 207,4 207,4 - 1.00

Borland 4,412 1,250 1,250 + 0.00

Bull 4,412 1,250 1,250 + 0.00

Bectel 4,412 1,250 1,250 + 0.00

Webs 4,412 1,250 1,250 + 0.00

DAX 1,049,20 1,049,20 1,049,20 + 0.00

FT 300 1,049,20 1,049,20 1,049,20 + 0.00

Previous: 1,047,57

IHT

AMEX Most Actives

Vol. High Low Last Chg.

Viacom 3,567,73 1,76 1,76 - 1.00

Viacom 1,203,70 1,20 1,20 + 0.00

Just in time

CLOSE

Real Chains Combine
California Hwy. 1 — Standard
and Tuesday it had agreed to acquire
the 10,325-kilometer network of
highways, which includes \$1.5 billion of
roads, in the largest road
merger in the United States.
Mergers talk among National
Road and Auto, the Aristedt company
that controls 10,000 kilometers of
highways.

Tempting Santa Fe

Union Pacific — Union Pacific
is considering buying its 53.25 billion
share of Santa Fe's rail railroad net-
work. It would move to disinte-
grate Santa Fe's rail network.

Its Warp Program

International Disputes — Internation-
al Tuesday launched a new sys-
tem to compete with the Windows

Reports Income Jump

AT Carolina (Bloomberg) — Part
net income rose 24 percent
to \$1.1 million, or \$1.35 a share, after
exceeded expectations of \$1.05.
The estimate of 20 analysts surveyed

word

AT Airlines said it would close
North Carolina and N.Y.,
affecting a total of 712 pilot
positions. It has changed
some flight crews since

Leaves

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Leaves

Sharing Economic Success

Germany's IG Metall Seeks 6% Wage Rise

By Brandon Mitchener
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Feeling left out of Germany's fledgling economic recovery, IG Metall, the country's biggest trade union on Tuesday demanded a larger share of German industry's economic success.

Klaus Zwickel, the head of the union, rejected a demand from the metalworkers' association, Gesamtmetall, that exercise wage restraint and postpone its contractual claim to a 35-hour workweek starting in October 1995.

Instead, he said the union not only would defend a shorter workweek for about 3.2 million workers in the automobile, electronic and steel industries, but also would press for wage gains of "up to 6 percent" in coming pay rounds.

Mr. Zwickel justified the union's pay demand with the need to spur domestic demand, which yet to follow a pickup in German exports.

"A worker who has suffered a definite loss in real wages in the last three years is still putting off the purchase of a new refrigerator, car and washing machine," he said. "If people have money in their pockets, it will help strengthen the economy and increase job security."

Economists said the union would be lucky to get a 2.5 percent to 3.0 percent average increase in wages. But Mr. Zwickel's comments, the first salvo in an annual ritual of la-

bors demands and employer counter-demands, are considered significant because of the union's high profile.

For more than a year, the union says thousands of German jobs fall victim to corporate cost-cutting.

Mr. Zwickel's comments also come as the federal government is publicly trumpeting the end of the recession in an attempt to boost the ruling coalition's prospects for re-election in a highly contested federal parliamentary poll set for Sunday.

The Economics Ministry, in its monthly report for October, said Tuesday that the German recovery had led to a "clear turn for the better" not just in export

pay rounds.

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bors demands and employer counter-demands, are considered significant because of the union's high profile.

But several observers regard

the tone and timing of such claims with suspicion.

"We detect more than a little bit of wishful thinking ahead of the elections," said Angelika Heiting, an IG Metall spokeswoman.

"Profitability in the metalworking industries has risen, as has productivity, but that hasn't automatically led to more employment," she said.

"We don't consider a recovery a recovery if it only benefits the companies. We only talk about a recovery when they begin creating more jobs," she said.

West German unemployment has begun to flatten after months of rising, while East German unemployment is beginning to decline after a sharp rise following German unification in 1990.

Shares of S.G. Warburg Securities lost as much as 14 percent in one day, and shares of Hambros PLC fell 13 percent the day after, as the two companies

banks said pretax profits fell more than 50 percent in the first half of the year, citing the condition of global markets.

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banks said pretax profits fell more than 50 percent in the first half of the year, citing the condition of global markets.

Analysts generally agreed that year-end bonuses were at risk, but many analysts said they expected British investment houses to try to wait out the fourth quarter and hope markets turn around before deciding to lay people off.

U.K. Brokers Brace for Cuts

Bloomberg Business News

LONDON — London's financial community is bracing for what could be its biggest cutback in jobs and bonuses since the late 1980s, as trading profits plunge and brokerage orders dry up.

A slump in profits and business since the Federal Reserve Board raised U.S. interest rates in February has left many investment companies unable to maintain the salaries and bonuses paid in the investment boom of 1993.

"The whole industry, both institutional and retail, has built itself up to a capital level in the last two years that has been the highest for seven or eight years," said David Jones, president of Sharelink, Britain's biggest discount brokerage.

The Financial Times Stock Exchange 100 Index of leading British shares has fallen 15 percent since peaking at 3,520.3 in Feb. 2.

To make matters worse, investment orders from March through September fell 25

percent from the previous six months as fund managers and small investors decided to sit out the turmoil in global markets, Mr. Jones said.

These concerns were heightened last week when two leading British investment

announced their profits and expectations.

Already several companies have begun cutting back on employee benefits. Bob Merrill Lynch & Co. and Lehman Brothers Inc. have stopped providing free lunches for their workers in London in the last three months.

Many Wall Street companies have already announced cutbacks in New York. To date, no U.S. house has said its cutbacks affected its London operations, but traders say they believe everyone has been affected.

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The numerical symbols indicate frequency of randomised assessments; (a) - annually; (bi) - biannually; (tri) - triennially; (tw) - every two weeks; (tri-req) - tri-regularly; (tw-req) - twice weekly; (mo) - monthly.

Oct 11, 199

For information on how to list your fund, fax Simon OSBORN at (33-1) 46 37 21 33

For expert advice on personal investing.

Every Saturday, the International Herald Tribune publishes The Money Report, a weekly section that provides a penetrating analysis of financial products and services available to today's high-net-worth investor.

Herald INTERNATIONAL **Tribune**

Reliance Net Rises As Demand in India Gathers Strength

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BOMBAY — India's largest private-sector company said Tuesday that a recovery in the chemical industry and increased productivity had contributed to a spectacular surge in first-half net profit.

Reliance Industries Ltd. said its first-half net profit more than doubled, to 5.1 billion rupees (\$163 million).

The textiles and petrochemicals giant said revenue for the period rose 36 percent, to 34.20 billion rupees from 25.17 billion rupees a year earlier. Operating profit rose 41 percent, to 7.44 billion rupees.

Anil Ambani, the company's managing director and the son of its founder, said he expected a "good financial performance" for the full year, as demand continued to grow in the Indian economy.

In Bombay, Reliance stock rose 10 rupees to 415. One Indian stock analyst said that although the results were better than expected, they did not lead to any immediate surge in buying. He said investors were keeping money aside for pending privatizations and initial public offerings of other Indian companies.

Korean Stocks Hit a Record

Bloomberg Business News

SEOUL — Stock prices rose to a record Tuesday as investors continued to buy financial companies and other relatively inexpensive shares that had long lagged the market, traders said.

The Composite Stock Price Index rose 9.98 points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,078.66.

Meanwhile, stocks in Taiwan fell for the sixth day in a row as creditors called in loans backed by shares that had plunged in value, dealers said. The Weighted Price index fell 1.4 percent to 6,124.24. The index has fallen more than 14 percent in the past week.

NYSE

Tuesday's Closing

Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

(Continued)

12 Month High Low Stock Div Yld PE %										12 Month High Low Lstg Chng									
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NASDAQ

Tuesday's 4 p.m.
This list compiled by the AP consists of the 1,000 most traded securities in terms of dollar value. It is updated twice a year.

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174 141 ACK-T									
174 141 ADFIntz									
229 152 AESCo									
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21 121 AST									
164 141 Advtl									
284 121 AdvtlB									
114 121 AdvtlC									
445 20% Advntv	.23	31	31	31					
216 17 AHCrocs									
143 18 AGCO	.10	24	24	24					
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25 121 Amusem									
242 19% Arched									
214 114 Anchro									
201 16% Andrew									
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French Technology



A "meter" where car owners pay to recharge their electric vehicles in La Rochelle, left; a Renault electric car prototype, right.

In Drive for Electric Cars, France Is a Leader

By Thomas Fuller

PARIS — The first time Joseph Cugnot took his car down a curving Paris street, it went straight off the road.

Mr. Cugnot, a retired engineer from eastern France, was no doubt disappointed; the accident, however, couldn't have caused much damage, as his car's top speed was three miles per hour.

That was 1769. Mr. Cugnot's three-wheeled steam-powered wagon designed to pull artillery pieces was the world's first automobile. Mr. Cugnot is credited with the invention and with ushering in a tradition of French automotive ingenuity.

Some 225 years later, the country that saw the invention of not only the automobile but also the storage battery is due to commercialize relatively cheap electric cars.

While most carmakers in the United States, Japan and Europe are experimenting with prototypes, both Renault and PSA Peugeot Citroën SA — France's Big Two — will offer electric versions of some gasoline-powered cars as early as next March.

The electric models, which are distinguishable from their internal-combustion counterparts only by their lack of tailpipe and their silent motors, can be plugged in

and recharged from any household wall socket, just like a toaster or coffee machine. A maximum charge of eight hours provides just under 100 kilometers (62 miles) of use, making the car an almost exclusively urban type of transport.

The vehicles we currently have which will soon enter production are targeted and oriented for the European market," said Noël Bureau, vice president for research at Peugeot Citroën. "They're small vehicles with reduced dimensions and reduced range as well. We think that if we can stick to a projected range of 80 to 100 kilometers per day, we'll be able to satisfy perhaps more than 90 percent of urban transport needs."

Many French cities, tired of the fumes and noise produced by internal-combustion engines, have made agreements with Renault or Peugeot to provide the necessary electric-car infrastructure.

Kenneth Barber, who heads the U.S. Department of Energy's electric-car division in Washington, attributes France's leading role in commercializing electric cars to the large price difference between its relatively cheap electricity and its expensive, highly taxed gasoline as well as the centralized structure of the French state.

"In France you have one utility, which is dead easy to work with," Mr. Barber said. "So it's a little different from the

U.S., where there are separate individual utilities reporting to private or separate utility commissions."

The United States, where electric cars are still in the prototype stages, development has been spurred on by a 1998 deadline imposed by California and other states for 2 percent of cars offered for sale to be free of emissions. General Motors Corp. recently created Delco Propulsion Systems, a business unit that it expects one day to sell electric-car components

The United States was once host to a large electric car market. In 1912, when gasoline-powered technology was in its early stages, there were 33,842 electric cars in operation — 22 times the current number.

But today, while GM anticipates, France's Big Two produce.

Renault's Clin'Électricité is scheduled to appear in showrooms next July, and Peugeot Citroën's 106 Électrique and AX Électrique are to be on the market by March or April. Both carmakers see initial demand as weak (Peugeot Citroën will have production capacity of only 6,000 electric cars next year) but count on improvements in infrastructure in French cities and tax rebates and financial incentives from the government to boost sales.

The necessary infrastructure includes, in large cities, places for electric-car users to leave their vehicles overnight to be recharged. By the end of this year, Paris will have 200 such berths.

La Rochelle, a city on the French Atlantic coast where Peugeot-Citroën has leased 50 prototypes of its AX and 106 models to residents and local companies, offers free parking for electric cars. The La Rochelle experiment is being watched closely by those involved in electric-car projects around the world because it is the first time a city has teamed up with a car manufacturer and utility company to provide the specific infrastructure needed for electric cars.

Michel Crepeau, La Rochelle's mayor, has long been an environmental activist.

providing in the 1970s a fleet of free bicycles for residents to use. Today, along with the national utility Électricité de France, the city has installed high-wattage recharging stations, providing in 10 minutes enough power to drive 20 kilometers.

Many electric-car users, however, have found the fast-recharging stations unnecessary and prefer to plug in their cars at home.

Chantal Vetter, a La Rochelle resident involved in the project, takes her Peugeot 106 Électrique to work every day and charges it every two nights. One hundred kilometers costs her eight francs (\$1.50) in

Continued on Page 18

Training the Elite: Too Narrow a Focus?

By Barry James

PARIS — The bicentennial of France's two leading establishments of higher learning this year has renewed an old debate about the place of science and technology in education and industry.

In short, has the pure math and science tradition represented by the Ecole Polytechnique eclipsed to a disproportionate extent the humanist traditions represented by the Ecole Normale Supérieure?

Polytechnique graduates have dominated French industry since World War II. They are largely responsible for such advances as the high-speed railway system, the nationwide teletext network and the Ariane satellite launcher. Three of the top 10 banks, three of the top 10 insurance companies and 56 of the top 100 industrial companies are headed by former polytechnicians.

"They know everything. Unfortunately they do not know anything else," Marshal Pétain was once quoted as saying.

The Ecole Normale Supérieure used to be France's intellectual leader, producing many of its best-known writers and philosophers, including Jean-Paul Sartre, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Michel Foucault, Raymond Aron, Jacques Derrida and Michel Serres.

But it has lost ground to the Polytechnique, and its birthday this month has been marked by a certain amount of sniping at the rival institution and the tradition it typifies. Colette Lewiner, an ENS graduate and now a senior official in the nuclear reprocessing industry, said that French industry is full of scientifically or technologically brilliant thinkers who are unable to work in a team or communicate.

"More and more," she said in an interview with *Le Monde de l'Education*, "we are looking for multidisciplinary people, or people capable of acquiring other disciplines — scientists who do not distrust literature."

Without "great intellectual mobility and a strong capability to adapt," she said, technological and scientific knowledge risks becoming quickly outdated.

Although the Polytechnique tradition served France well during its post-war reconstruction, it has many negative aspects. Critics say it has created a self-

replicating caste of remote super-specialists that is ill-adapted to increasing European and international cooperation. It also symbolizes an obsessive preoccupation with diplomas and academic qualifications at virtually every level.

One irony is that while the French put the Polytechnique at the pinnacle of learning, few foreigners have ever heard of it. The Sorbonne, part of the University of Paris, is far better known abroad.

Math occupies a place of honor in French business and industry in great part because it is seen as a useful means of selecting job applicants, being less subjective than literature or philosophy. Nevertheless, the rational French still rely to a greater extent than any other European country on assessment techniques such as numerology or graphology that seem to come straight from a New Age commune.

The revolutionary government in 1794 set up the Polytechnique to provide the young republic with engineers, and the Ecole Normale Supérieure to provide teachers — a role it keeps today.

The Ecole Normale Supérieure used to be France's intellectual leader, producing many of its best-known writers and philosophers, including Jean-Paul Sartre, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Michel Foucault, Raymond Aron, Jacques Derrida and Michel Serres.

Whether industry has accepted a greater need for humanities or generalism is open to question. "I wish it were true, but I have not seen anything to indicate it," said Daniel Jouve, a Paris headhunter.

Mary Boss, of the INSEAD business school at Fontainebleau, said that French companies that take a European or international view are increasingly looking for generalists, with training in languages and the humanities as well as science.

"If they come here it is because they have decided that they need to recruit international managers, or French managers who have an interest or talent for international business," she said.

BARRY JAMES is on the staff of the International Herald Tribune.

An Entrepreneur's Search for Capital

By Richard E. Smith

LES ULIS, France — Linh T. Nuyen is probably not the only high-tech entrepreneur striking out on his own in France who wonders sometimes with regret and sometimes with a shudder, how different his foray into business might have been in the beguiling but treacherous U.S. market.

"If it had started in the United States instead of France," he said, "the company would have already gone public and our sales would be double what they are today."

But he also acknowledged that he might have followed the fate of many Silicon Valley start-ups as a flash in the pan on the over-the-counter market or lost its independence early in a quick buyout.

As it is, the 54-year-old émigré from Vietnam, who spent 15 years as a research engineer at Thomson SA, does not have a lot of complaints.

"I like the job I am doing," he said. "I like developing new products. In a smaller company, it is easier to do it."

Picogiga, his company, is now eight years old. It has 25 employees, sales of over 30 million francs (\$5.7 million), profit of about 6 million francs, a pleasant site near Paris and an idea he feels has an outstanding future: the gallium arsenide wafer, a miniaturized transistor with applications ranging from mobile telephones to collision-preventive radar devices for a new generation of automobiles.

What he does not have and what makes him envious of his U.S. counterparts is the kind of plentiful, mobile and sophisticated venture capital that provides such fertile ground for the boisterous U.S. microelectronics industry.

"We are producing at peak capacity," he said. "We could be doing more."

He said that when a company in Silicon Valley or Route 128 near Boston runs into a rough patch, its financiers can tap into a rich network of outside consultants, academics, editors and specialized bankers to get a reading on the situation.

"But in France, finance people often do not know the market," he said. "They do not know who to call in the U.S. Sometimes they don't even speak English."

As a result, it is the lot of the technical



Linh T. Nuyen

people in France and Europe in general to constantly defend the performance of a high-tech company before skeptical financiers.

Since Mr. Nuyen's innovation is on the cutting edge of both microelectronics and metallurgy, he has had to do a lot of talking. Although he has financing from five French venture capital organizations, he had serious trouble getting fresh funds several years ago to buy equipment he felt was vital.

Now does he think the situation in Europe will improve soon.

The U.S. market, as he notes, is not only large enough to allow many small players to perch on small niches, it has a wide range of success stories in spite of a high rate of failure.

"At one point in the past, European companies like Philips started with the idea of individual people," Mr. Nuyen said. "But it has been a long time since there have been many great successes."

"The culture is different in Silicon Valley," said Mr. Nuyen, who has been to the United States more times than he can count. "People say, 'Why not me?' There have been a lot of successes and this makes it easier for others to ask for money. We need more examples of success in Europe to excite the market."

At the same time, he said that the breakneck pace of the U.S. market can be intimidating for any beginner, not to speak of a foreign one.

"I am French and I'm here because I

started working here," he said. "And I was a researcher, not an entrepreneur. For the U.S. market, you have to know about marketing there, about law, about the environment."

Sometimes the slower pace in Europe can allow a longer fuse time for research. While three of his venture capital supporters are tied to commercial banks, two are state-dominated research funds. "They are more patient," he said.

Some of that funding originates in programs sponsored by the European Union and allows small niche companies to benefit from contact with Europe's microelectronics giants. "The arrangement is good for us as a small company," he said.

"The optimal situation is to have several large companies own a small stake in your company so that you can learn from all of them but still stay independent," he said, highlighting a business pattern that is more common in Europe than in the United States.

"It is sometimes a handicap to be owned by a big company. If I am bought by Motorola, it could mean that I could not supply others and would lose contact with my next big move."

"In three years, if we continue to grow at the rate we are growing, we will open a production facility in the United States," he said.

"In the semiconductor industry, the leader in innovation is the United States," he said. "The Americans have recovered the momentum over the last two or three years that they had lost before to the Japanese."

"It is the Americans now who are moving most aggressively to apply the newest technologies, much as the Japanese had been doing before."

Three years ago Japan accounted for 55 percent of Mr. Nuyen's sales and the United States for 25 percent. Now Japan has slipped to about 25 percent and America has surged to 67 percent. France still accounts for less than 5 percent.

RICHARD E. SMITH is on the staff of the International Herald Tribune.

Builder of Nuclear Plants Looks East

By Joseph Fitchett

PARIS — When Jean-Claude Lénny predicts a bright nuclear future for Framatome, he has in mind more than the state-controlled manufacturer's recent sale to Chinese firms (\$282 million).

His confidence also reflects nuclear energy's unique place in French elite thinking as a crown jewel of national technology. This belief that nuclear energy is a state affair helped block a government bid this year to privatize Framatome.

With cash reserves acquired via gov-

ernment-ordered industrial shifts, Framatome has outdistanced its competitors during the bleak years since the Three Mile Island incident in the United States in 1979, which started an international groundswell of anti-nuclear sentiment.

Today his faith centers on Asia, particularly China, which may follow up the recent component sale with a major order for the Daya Bay site where Framatome has already installed two reactors.

Asian nations are a promising market, Mr. Lénny said, because they must have nuclear energy if they are going to meet the electricity demand generated by their growth boom.

"They won't go the all-nuclear route

Continued on Page 18



Gaz de France is one of the rare natural gas companies in the world to offer a comprehensive service from the original source to the final consumer. It is also work-

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What Future for Minitel?

Former On-Line Leader Now Looks Outdated

By Richard Covington

PARIS — As Europe braces for the invasion of American on-line services, France's premiere on-line service, is scrambling to keep its hold on the French market and is mounting a counterattack, adapting the system for U.S. consumers.

CompuServe is already available in France, and other major on-line services — America On-Line, Prodigy, and Delphi — are expected to arrive by late next year. The challenge to France's nine-year-old Minitel system is obvious. Since this spring, Minitel users have been able to get on the Internet, the global information and communications computer network, by either paying a monthly subscription fee or dialing 3619 USNET and paying 2.19 francs (41 cents) a minute. Access to a wide range of videotext services across Europe varies in cost from two to nine francs a minute, according to the service.

But the question remains: Are users going to go on-line through the Minitel network, or will they opt for their computers to reach on-line services such as Compuserve and Prodigy, at half the cost or less?

"The Minitel has no memory, no intelligence, poor command control, and it's slow," complains Joshua Harris, an analyst with Jupiter Interactive Productions Inc., an on-line service consulting company based in New York. "The problem is that the French now have all these antiquated terminals. While this gave them a technological lead in

1985, now the terminals are bogging the system down."

In the dark ages of 1985 — when the word "Internet" suggested tennis rather than computer bonding — France Telecom was giving away brown plastic breadbox-sized gizmos as unlikely replacements for bulky paper telephone directories and other information services yet to be invented.

Since then, Minitel use has taken off, with practiced users consulting the box for everything from updates on weather and rail strikes to everything they might want to know about General Charles de Gaulle — on his own Téletel number, 3615 Espoir. (Téletel and Audiotel are the numbered services; the Minitel is the alphanumeric keyboard and boxed screen — the hardware.)

By the end of 1993, 6.5 million Minitels were in service, with another half-million users connected through their computers via modem. The French logged 100 million hours grazing through some 25,000 different services, forking over 8.7 billion francs for the privilege.

Undaunted by the failure of this initial venture, France Telecom is going ahead with another pilot project, in home banking, in partnership with U.S. West and Electronic Data Systems Inc. According to Mr. Guillet, the French phone company is involved in further discussions with U.S. West on "broadening our approach" from basic videotext services to the full range of multimedia services employing voice, computer-generated still photographs and moving video images.

In a separate venture, France Telecom signed on this spring with AT&T Corp., Sony Corp., Philips NV, Motorola Inc., Apple Computer Inc., Matsushita and other telecommunications concerns to bankroll the development of an icon-based, touch-sensitive system that is a highly sophisticated variation of the Minitel's Téletel and Audiotel services, to be produced by General Magic Inc. of Mountain View, California.

With Apple France SA, the French phone network has developed a number of projects to bring the Minitel to Macintosh computer screens and has several more in the works, according to Antoine Henry, director of business systems for Apple France.

An upgraded Minitel will be equipped with encoded memory cards to enable the user to pay in advance for tickets, goods and other services, just like phoning in a credit-card order. Both the TVR and the Minitel with memory card should be available in 1995.

The videconferencing project will be compatible with the

worldwide ISDN standard. France Telecom, Apple and Société Anonyme de Téléphonie SA are collaborating on the project, due on the market by the end of the year. The cost of the memory card and videocamera will run around 20,000 francs, Mr. Henry says.

Also in the works are new versions of the Minitel service that should go a long way toward allaying persistent criticisms of the system's slowness and limited flexibility. The TVR, or Téletel Vitesse Rapide, will be eight times as fast as the present Minitel system.

The joint venture that holds the most promise is videconferencing, an adaptation to Apple's Power Mac AV that enables the user to see the person he or she is calling in a window on the computer screen and to work simultaneously with that person on the same document.

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RICHARD COVINGTON is a freelance writer based in Paris.

Airbus Seeks Bigger Craft

By Robert Bailey

THE creation of Airbus Industrie nearly 25 years ago represented a recognition that no European civil airliner maker could compete with U.S. producers on its own. But few people at the time, on either side of the Atlantic, would have predicted how strong a force the consortium would become.

Today, France's interest in airliner design and production, alongside that of Germany, Britain and Spain, is concentrated in Airbus. Aerospatiale, the French state-owned concern, has a 37.5 percent shareholding, as does Deutsche Aerospace. British Aerospace has a 20 percent share and Spain's Construcciones Aeronauticas holds 4.2 percent.

While the consortium's name is Gallic and its headquarters is in Toulouse, Airbus Industrie, whose official company language is English, would be embarrassed to be described as a French concern.

The partners have a dual role as shareholders and industrial participants, providing work on aircraft in their own factories in proportion to their equity stakes. Final assembly at Toulouse or Hamburg represents less than 4 percent of the work that goes into each aircraft.

The consortium's main achievement has been survival — it became profitable in 1990, giving it a firm foundation from which to plan for the next century.

By this summer, the consortium had delivered nearly 1,200 airliners to 112 customers. Deliveries included 33 of Airbus' most ambitious aircraft development to date: the A-340, a four-engine craft with intercontinental range and a 260-passenger capacity. The new plane filled a final gap in the Airbus line of aircraft, in terms of both range and capacity.

For the future, however, potential development costs and uncertainty of markets are so great that even rival manufacturers have been exploring avenues of collaboration.

Thus, the various Airbus partners, along with Boeing Co., are carrying out a joint study on a Very Large Commercial Transport con-

cept. Airbus itself has observer status in the project. But there are doubts the program will continue once its initial phase is completed next summer.

Boeing, meanwhile, is carrying out its own studies of a stretched version of its successful 747, and Airbus is examining a super jumbo option, designated the A3XX.

To get such an aircraft off the drawing board and into the air in the next decade will require a firm development decision within the next three years.

In the A3XX, Airbus envisions an aircraft with two full decks able to carry 530 to 570 passengers in a three-class layout, or 840 in a single-class, all-economy seating plan. It would have a range of up to 7,400 miles (12,600 kilometers).

Airbus has also applied its design concepts to its own transport requirements. The result, the A300-600 Super Transport, had its first test flight in September.

The aircraft is a successor to the hulbous U.S.-built Super Guppy airplanes that the consortium has used since 1970 to transport fuselage sections and wings from sites around Europe to final Airbus assembly lines.

The A300-600 ST is one of the largest aircraft ever built, with 50,000 cubic feet (1,400 cubic meters) of main deck cargo space and a 56-foot-high (17-meter) door. Aerospatiale and Deutsche Aerospace Airbus, which are building the new transport, believe that the \$1 billion development could pay off with sales to other operators in the international air cargo market.

With an assertiveness favored by the French, Airbus has succeeded in breaking the monopoly of U.S. civil airliner producers. This has helped Europe to match the outside world in high-technology markets.

The politics may become more acute if European governments decide to go ahead with a new big military transport aircraft to replace the Lockheed-built C-130, now in general use.

ROBERT BAILEY is a journalist based in London.

Heavier Payloads, Higher Paybacks

IT WAS a busy summer for ArianeSpace, the European rocket concern that projects itself as the world's first commercial space transport company.

An Intelsat satellite and two British Defense Ministry payloads were launched June 17 from the Ariane base at Kourou in French Guiana. Then came the American Panamsat-2 and Japan's BS-3N satellites on July 9, the Turkstat-1B and Brasilsat B-1 on Aug. 10, and finally the Solidaridad-2 for Mexico and Thailand's Thaicom-2 last week.

The second half of the year has been a period of recovery for the company. After a successful run of 26 launches, Ariane lost a satellite payload in January when the third stage of a rocket failed at launch.

After five months of investigation and the rectification of problems, ArianeSpace is back on target to achieve 30 launches from now to 1996.

With a launch order book of about 18 billion francs (\$3.4 billion), the company believes that its European investors are getting a good commercial and technological payback. The largest slice of its equity, 56.65 percent, is held by French companies and banks; the largest shareholder is the French national space agency CNES.

Charles Bigot, chief executive of ArianeSpace, notes that the new Ariane-5 launcher is to come on stream in about 12 months. The company, he says,

Ariane-5 will be able to launch satellites of up to 5.9 tons. By 1997 this capacity is due to have been improved to 7.4 tons.

"The new rocket's growth capability," said Mr. Bigot, "will allow the development of many higher-performance, more flexible versions, possibly in cooperation with other space powers, giving us a powerful, adaptable launch system for the next century."

The first Ariane-5 test flight is expected to take place next fall. A second flight, the following spring, will carry two commercial satellites and a demonstrator version of Europe's future space capsule.

That capsule, the Atmospheric Re-entry Demonstrator, or ARD, is a prototype of a crew transfer vehicle able to transport four astronauts and 400 kilograms (880 pounds) of equipment to a space station.

After almost a full revolution of the Earth and a 15-minute re-entry phase, the cone is to be parachuted into the Pacific, in a scene reminiscent of the pre-shuttle U.S. space missions. According to Aerospatiale, lead contractor for the ARD, the return to Earth is expected to be precise within 1 square kilometer (0.38 square mile).

Looking about 20 years ahead, ArianeSpace is thinking about an Ariane-6, with a launch vehicle that would be at least partly recoverable.

ROBERT BAILEY

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Bull Tries to Climb Back

By Richard E. Smith

PARIS — It's make-or-break time, yet again at Bull. But this time it just may be for real. The state-controlled French flagship computer company, long cushioned by some of Europe's most controversial subsidies from the tremors that have shaken the computer industry, is bracing to go cold turkey.

Virtually a new company is rising from the shambles of one that has posted three years of extensive losses. The early signs are promising but subsidies have masked the company's true problems for so long that analysts are not quite sure what is emerging.

"The reshaping of Bull, which looked like a near impossibility two years ago, is perhaps nearer in sight, but the strategic direction of the company, and its understanding of its own core business remains still somewhat unclear," said Martin Oertel, an analyst with Dataquest, a market research organization in information technologies.

Also in the works are new versions of the Minitel service that should go a long way toward allaying persistent criticisms of the system's slowness and limited flexibility. The TVR, or Téletel Vitesse Rapide, will be eight times as fast as the present Minitel system.

The joint venture that holds the most promise is videconferencing, an adaptation to Apple's Power Mac AV that enables the user to see the person he or she is calling in a window on the computer screen and to work simultaneously with that person on the same document.

The videconferencing project will be compatible with the

tional criticism over its subsidies in order to maintain globally sized players in high-visibility industries, has come to the realization that the computer world and its technology no longer can be bound by borders, analysts said. This has made it both more difficult and less relevant to have a national flagship.

"At one time, France was interested in having an independent capacity in microelectronics, not only for image reasons but for strategic and defense reasons," said Pierre Boucheny, an analyst with the brokerage Ferri SA in Paris.

"But now microelectronics has become an industry in which marketing is the key.

The company expects to make an operating profit for 1994.

lot of technology is available to everyone and a lot of Bull's technology is coming from other foreign companies in any case."

Bull looked steadily more expendable as other French companies, like Air France, needed major infusions.

"The point has come where choices have to be made," said Mr. MacLeod. "When you look at the comments from the French government, that is very much the message."

The government made its move late last year when Minister of Industry Gérard Longuet appointed Jean-Marie Descarpentines as chairman.

Mr. Descarpentines, who engineered creative turnarounds elsewhere in France, has over the last year made *mise en tension*, a buzz phrase in the French business press, referring to his campaign to subject each of the company's operations to a high degree of scrutiny and pressure in a bid to shake up bureaucratic fiefdoms that had taken form over the previous decade.

"They have reached the bottom of the barrel in terms of the availability of government funding that is permissible by the European Community," said Ian MacLeod, an analyst with Natwest Securities.

The French government long willing to brave interna-

Last month he said he would like the government to reduce its stake in the company to a maximum of 10 percent from the current 76 percent.

He also forecast that Bull would report an operating profit for 1994 and return to net profitability in the second half of 1995. The fact that the company had narrowed its net loss in the first half of 1994 to 843 million French francs (\$160 million) from 1.98 billion francs a year earlier gave credence to the predictions.

"Our turnaround is behind us," he said confidently.

Analysts are intrigued but wary.

They generally commend the initiatives of Mr. Descarpentines on two major counts: he is not doing the easy thing by simply cutting staff across the board and he is playing to a long-time strength of Bull, the company's openness to cooperation with other firms.

Although the staff has been cut significantly worldwide, Mr. Descarpentines has taken particular care to focus on management ranks.

"The new management team rejected the traditional turnaround methods of massive global staff reductions and of immediately halting activities that were losing money since some of those activities are businesses that may be important for the future," said Mr. Oertel.

Bull has also embarked on a conspicuous string of alliances. In addition to longer-standing links with International Business Machines Corp., NEC Corp. of Japan and France Telecom, the company has forged new accords this year with Motorola Corp., Tandem Computers Inc. and Wang Laboratories Inc.

The new task for Bull is to turn around market sentiment and this may prove substantially harder than turning around results.

"Things are clearly improving but it will be a major challenge to convince financial markets that Bull represents an attractive long-term investment," said Mr. MacLeod.

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Framatome Looks East for Growth

Continued from Page 17

because it would be impossible to build reactors fast enough to cover their needs, but nuclear power is definitely going to be part of the mix," he said in a recent interview.

In France itself, Framatome — which became the producer of the standard reactor adopted by France after the 1973-74 energy crisis — is expecting a surge in orders soon, as the state electricity monopoly buys a new generation of improved reactors for its power stations.

Despite this, Framatome now faces a threat from its own government: privatization — in practice, a euphemism for selling it to Alcatel Alsthom, France's largest private company, which incorporated GEC. Framatome's smaller rival, the new generation of improved reactors for its power stations.

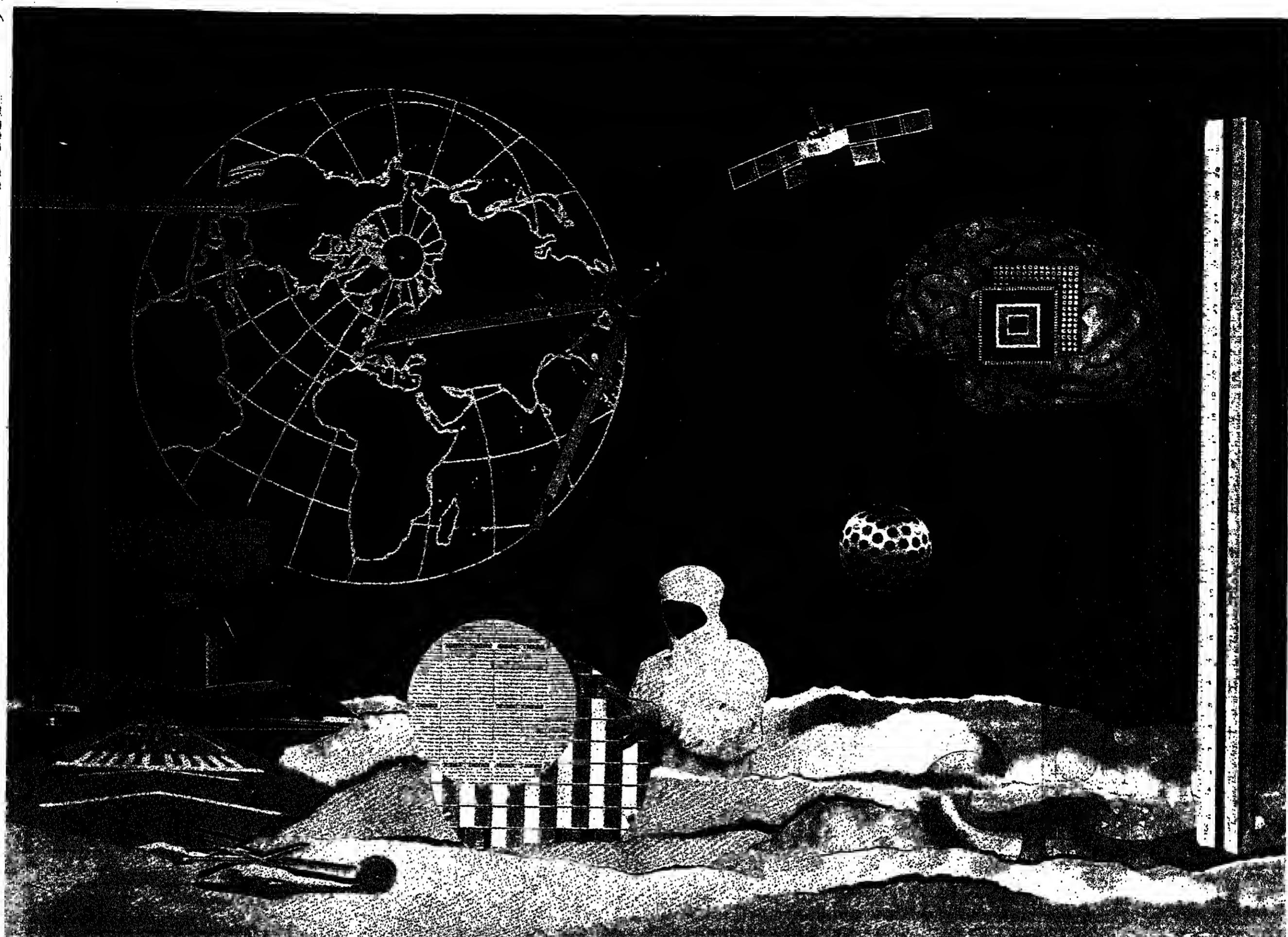
The design calls for a low-cost cryogenic engine using liquid oxygen and hydrogen. This will allow the Ariane-5's motor to provide 20 percent more thrust than the Ariane-4's Vulcan engine.

Reliability has been key consideration. Ariane-5 will have just one engine, compared to its predecessor's four first-stage engines. And the new rocket's third-stage engine does not require turbopumps, which have been identified as the cause of a number of past failures.

Ariane-5 will be able to launch satellites of up to 5.9 tons. By 1997 this capacity is due to have been improved to 7.4 tons.

"The new rocket's growth capability," said Mr. Bigot, "will allow the development of many higher-performance, more flexible versions, possibly in cooperation with other space powers, giving us a powerful, adaptable launch

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SPORTS

Vikings' Vets Trip Up Green Giants, 27-10

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey — Anthony Parker and Warren Moon showed prize prospect, Dave Brown, that he still has a lot to learn about life in the National Football League.

After Brown engineered a 94-yard drive that sent the New York Giants into half-time with a tie, Parker struck four plays into the third quarter, returning an interception 44 yards for a touchdown that led to the Minnesota Vikings to a 27-10 victory on Monday night.

Moon, with 154 NFL starts to Brown's five, was 23-of-34 for 299 yards and a touchdown pass, picking apart the New York defense with the precision that Brown has yet to learn. Qadry Ismail caught seven of those passes for 117 yards.

"I knew the minute I stepped in and intercepted it that I was going to score," Parker said.

The interception came after Brown, who also had a ball picked off that set up Minnesota's first touchdown, had tied the score at 10 with a three-yard run that capped a drive that began on the Giants' 6-yard-line with 1:27 left in the first half.

It alone demonstrated why the Giants decided to give him their starting job and release veteran Phil Simms. Brown was 6-for-8 for 91 yards in the drive.

But on New York's first series of the second half, his inexperience showed when, without looking, he passed into the flat and hit Parker perfectly in stride.

Moon threw to Cris Carter for a 20-yard TD late in the period to make it 24-10. Brown finished 18-for-36 for 226 yards, with three interceptions.

Minnesota remained tied with Chicago atop the NFC Central. The Giants, on the night when Lawrence Taylor's "56" jersey was retired, lost their second straight.



Tight end Andrew Jordan was upended before he could score for the Vikings:

SCOREBOARD

OLYMPIC SPORTS

Asian Games

BASEBALL

China 14, Thailand 1

Taiwan 26, Mongolia 0

BOXING

Swimming

FEATHERWEIGHT

Zoltan Mazzoli, Poland,

def. Eric Conroy, Philippines, 15-10.

Anthony Parker, Ireland,

def. Nemo Michel Robert, Indonesia, 11-7.

Light featherweight: Reynaldo Gatica, Philippines, 1, Totoi Montoro, Qatar, 18-18; 2,

Vitoi Sivin, Kazakhstan, 10-9; 3, Chen Wei-

hong, China, 13-8.

Chen Li Chia, def. Wang Shih-ling, Taiwan,

(4)-2, 7-5; Nodai Soveremusu, Jooson C, def.

Tomerine Tanasongsri, Thailand, 6-2, 6-2.

TRACK AND FIELD

100-Meter Hurdles

1, Total Montoro, Qatar, 10.18; 2,

Vitoi Sivin, Kazakhstan, 10.29; 3, Chen Wei-

hong, China, 10.28.

100-Meter Hurdles: 1, Shunji Kubota, Je-

pon, 10.13; 2, Yoshitaka Saito, Japan, 10.

All 100-Meter Hurdles: 1, Chen Wei-hong,

China, 10.28.

100-Meter Hurdles

1, Otoe Chikilipao, Ko-

zakohsan, 12.08; 2, Zhou Hongyong, China,

12.07; 3, Zhang Yu, China, 12.06.

100-Meter Hurdles: 1, S. Kumar Jayaram, Sri Lanka,

12.04; 2, Dorska K. Domoranthi, Sri Lanka,

12.04.

3000-Meters

1, Zhou Linli, China, 8.57; 2,

Huang Huiyuan, Japan, 8.53; 3, Li Ou,

China, 8.53.

Modern Pentathlon

Individual: 1, Kim

Sang-hun, South Korea, 5277; 2, Alexander

Parygin, Kazakhstan, 5277; 3, Kim Mi-jae,

South Korea, 5169.

Team: 1, Kazakhstan, 15,493; 2, South Korea,

15,288; 3, Kyrgyzstan, 13,914; 4, China, 14,453.

1000-Meter Hurdles: 1, Otoe Chikilipao, Ko-

zakohsan, 10.29; 2, Kon-

chobek Chonowat, 10.29; 3, Chen Wei-

hong, China, 10.28.

WATER POLO

Iron, 18, Singapore 4

China, 11; South Korea 2

Kazakhstan 11, Japan 8

TABLE TENNIS

Men

Overseas

Lamour Pase, India, 1, 2nd; Sengwandi, Indo-

nésia (8), 4-1; Pan Bins, China (21), def.

Yasuharu Yamamoto, Japan (7), 6-2, 6-4.

Yeon Yang-il, South Korea (4), def. Oleg Ogor-

ov, Russia.

FOOTBALL HOCKEY

Women

India 2, Singapore 0

Japan 1, Uzbekistan 0

South Korea 2, China 1

HANDBALL

Women

Japan 27, China 26

SOCCER

Men

South Korea 3, Japan 2

China 2, Saudi Arabia 0

Uzbekistan 3, Turkmenistan 0

Kuwait 3, United Arab Emirates 1

TENNIS

Men

Overseas

Lamour Pase, India, 1, 2nd; Sengwandi, Indo-

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ov, Russia.

SWIMMING

Men

China 20, Thailand 1

Taiwan 26, Mongolia 0

South Korea 26, Indonesia 1

Japan 26, Thailand 1

Indonesia 26, Mongolia 0

Thailand 26, Indonesia 0

Indonesia 26, Thailand 0

Thailand 26, Indonesia 0

SPORTS

100 Mark Set Again By Qatar's Mansoor

The Associated Press

HIROSHIMA, Japan — Qatar's Talal Mansoor defended his title as Asia's fastest human and a 14-year-old Malaysian won a yachting gold medal Tuesday as China's gold-medal pace slowed somewhat in the Asian Games as it took only one of the day's four women's track events, and one of the men's.

Syria's Sheas Ghada claimed the title of best all-round athlete by winning the seven-event heptathlon, while South Korea's Kim Myung Gun won the modern pentathlon, which combines competition in fencing, running, swimming, shooting and riding.

Singapore captured its first gold of the games in yachting. Mansoor's gold also was Qatar's first here, although it marked the third time he has won the Asian Games 100. He lowered the games record time again in doing it.

Taiwan was among those cutting into China's haul on the track. Wang Hui-chen won the women's 200 meters in a games record 23.34 seconds. Ryan Han Wei Tan, the Asian champion, was Malaysia's 14-year-old champion in Optimist Class yachting. Except for a seventh-place finish in the last of seven races, he finished no lower than third. The worst race does not count in a competitor's total score.

Mansoor and his rivals went through five false starts before completing their 100-meter sprint. He won in 10.18 seconds, beating the 4-year-old games mark of 10.30 and finishing comfortably ahead of Kazakhstan's Vitali Savin, who took the silver in 10.29.

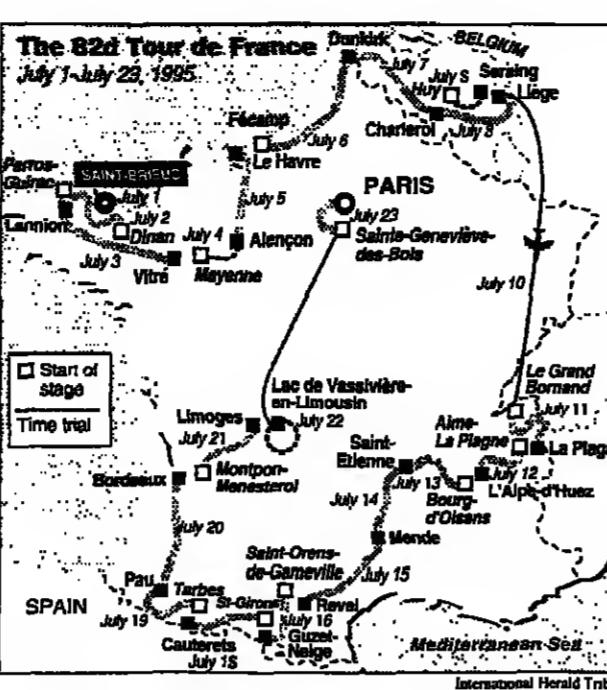
Japan's Shunji Karube beat teammate Yoshinobu Saito in a photo finish in the men's 400-meter hurdles. Both were timed in 49.13, beating the 8-year-old games record of 49.31.

China's only men's victory came in the long jump, and Huang Geng's winning 27 feet, 4½ inches didn't count as a

games record because it was wind-aided. As expected, its powerful contingent of distance runners won the women's 3,000 meters. Zhang Linli's time of 8 minutes, 52.97 seconds broke the games record of 8:57.12. Harumi Hiroyama of Japan failed in a home-stretch effort to catch Zhang and took the silver in 8:53.74.

But Olga Chichigina of Kazakhstan edged China's Zhou Hongyang and Zhang Yu in the 100-meter hurdles. The times were 12.80, 12.87 and 12.90.

In the heptathlon, Syria's Ghada piled up 6,360 points, beating the games record of 6,231. China's Zhang Xiaohui was second with 5,800.



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was second with 5,800.

It's not a race just for climbers," Indurain said. "A complete rider will win." Who is the most complete rider around, a man who can climb with the best and time-trial better than anybody? Big Mig, of course.

The crowd of several thousand at the Palais des Congres agreed with his judgment.

"I'm happy with those dis-

tances," he said. Sitting near him, some of his rivals looked less pleased. The Spaniard has won the last four Tours by

three in the Pyrenees, just one of those stages can be considered extraordinary: the 15th, on July 18, which comprises six big climbs. They include the Peyre-soude, the Aspin and the Tourmalet, all part of the legendary "Circle of Death" in the Pyrenees.

All the other mountain stages are, at their toughest, standard

Tour fare.

Excluding the short prologue, the two individual time trials play into Indurain's strength over the long haul. The first, the eighth stage, on July 9, will cover 54 kilometers (34 miles), and the second, the 19th stage, on July 22, 46 kilometers.

It will start July 1 in St. Brieuc,

a city in the Cotes d'Armor region

of northern Brittany, with 20

teams of nine riders each, one

team fewer than this year.

A team time trial is scheduled for the third

and mountainous stage.

Jean-Luc Vandenbroucke,

the directeur sportif of the Lot-

et-Garonne team from Belgium, agreed with Leggeay. "Definitely easier," he said. "With 500 kilometers dropped out, the riders will not have to work as hard."

Although that was also the

feeling of Jim Obowicz, general

manager of the Motorola team

from the United States, his direc-

teur sportif, Hennie Kuiper, was

one of the few who thought the

race would be harder than usual.

"The riders go right into the

Alps after the time trial,"

Kuiper noted. "This might

cause trouble."

After the time trial, from

Huy to Liege in Belgium, the pack

will spend the next day

flying to the Alps and then rest-

ing before setting off on July 11

over three climbs on the way to

the resort of La Plagne, 1,800

meters (5,900 feet) up. The day

after, three more climbs lead to

Alpe d'Huez, 1,860 meters high.

Stephen Roche, the Irishman

who won the Tour in 1987 and is

now retired, pointed out another

big difficulty. "The stage in Bel-

gium the day before the time trial

will be a miniature Liege-Bas-

togne-Liege," he said. At least

five of the hills in that demanding

classic will be part of the stage.

Beyond that, there seems to be

no booby traps.

"The course reminds me of

the 1993 one," said Indurain,

looking untroubled. He won

that Tour easily, of course.

'95 Tour: Tailor-Made for Indurain

By Samuel Abt
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — No Tours de France are easy but some are easier than others, which explains why Miguel Indurain was trying to restrain a smile Tuesday.

He had just seen the route for the next Tour, and it appears to be tailored for him as he seeks to become the first rider to win the world's greatest bicycle race for five successive years.

"It's not a race just for climbers," Indurain said. "A complete rider will win." Who is the most complete rider around, a man who can climb with the best and time-trial better than anybody? Big Mig, of course.

The crowd of several thousand at the Palais des Congres agreed with his judgment.

The winner would have to be more than a climber.

Although the 82nd Tour will spend two days in the Alps and three in the Pyrenees, just one of those stages can be considered extraordinary: the 15th, on July 18, which comprises six big climbs. They include the Peyre-soude, the Aspin and the Tourmalet, all part of the legendary "Circle of Death" in the Pyrenees.

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will transit the Alps and then the Pyrenees before it ends in Paris on July 23.

The race will be considerably shorter than usual, about 3,500 kilometers or 500 less than this year.

"Overall it will be much easier than this year," said Roger Leggeay, the directeur sportif of the Gan team, based in France. "Shorter, two rest days, mountains no worse than usual."

OBSERVER

Tale of Common Scents

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — The death of Harriet Nelson of "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet" sent me rooting through the basket of Great Ideas here on the desk. In this basket were letters and clippings from old magazines and newspapers gather mold while waiting to make themselves useful.

The search produced — Aha! Knew it was there! — a science story ripped out of the March 1992 issue of Harper's magazine. The title: "Scentsing a Generation Gap." It's about the power of smell to evoke nostalgia.

A consumer research study by Dr. Alan Hirsch asked 989 people, "What odor causes you to become nostalgic?" People born in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s said: Pine, roses, hot chocolate, fish, lilies, manure, honeysuckle, violets, attics, Cracker Jack, baking bread, soap, figs, cut grass, blueberries, cinnamon, ocean air, meadows, hay, clover, petunias, tweed, meatballs, split-pea soup, fresh air and burning leaves.

Those born in the 1960s and 1970s said the smells that made them nostalgic were: Play-Doh, chlorine, crayons, rubber fish bait, marijuana, tuna casserole, Downy fabric softener, dirt, smoke, airplane fuel, disinfectant, refineries, motor oil, tacos, SweetARTS, Cocoa Puffs, urine, garbage, Windex, hair spray, plastic, ferns, old socks, dog waste, baby aspirin, feet, mothballs, exhaust, mosquito repellent, factories, nail polish, enchiladas, candy cigarettes, suntan oil, scented Magic Markers and burning tires.

I cite his work only to prove that one generation's pine, cinnamon and roses is another generation's urine, garbage and old socks. There is no explanation why the study omitted odors that stimulate nostalgia among people born in

1950s, which brings us back to Harriet Nelson.

My guess is that 1950s people were so busy inhaling television that they had no space left over for smelling. 1950s people seem unique in their devotion to the memory of TV sitcoms of their pubescent years. Members of the "Ozzie and Harriet" family still seem to them like real people they once knew well.

I confess to having never seen the Cleavers of "Leave It to Beaver" on television, nor "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet" for that matter. By the time they came along, however, I had seen a great many Andy Hardy movies.

These were simple-minded fictions about a ludicrously idealized family. Like most movies of their time, they existed to help people escape the mean realities of the 1930s and 1940s, when the agitations of poverty and war intensified the family's natural tendency to become dysfunctional.

Few sensible persons, least of all the children growing up in the Depression and war years, mistook the Hardy family for a real-life possibility or felt nostalgic afterward for the bogus world the Hardys inhabited.

Yet immediately after World War II there was indeed a tendency for mom and dad and their two and a half children to flee town and hunker down as a lonely self-contained unit in suburbs, like the sitcom families.

The explanation does not encourage sentimentality. The postwar boom in housing and good jobs combined to let people escape cramped and dependent prewar lives which had tied them to extended families they were tired of. What the sitcoms idealized was an unrealistic dream of escape to independence.

New York Times Service

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1994

The Japanese Everyman

By Carol Lufy

NEW YORK — "I'm famous for being a boring interview," Issey Ogata, the wildly popular Japanese actor and satirist, announced as he sits down to a beer with a journalist. "I have nothing of importance to say."

The self-introduction, though predictably self-effacing, is no joke. One of Japan's funniest, most expressive men on stage may be one of the least forthcoming in real life. Hard-working, hard-drinking and slow-talking, the Tokyo-based award-winning performer is, unexpectedly, a lot like the skit characters he portrays.

At 42, Ogata is known throughout Japan for his side-splitting, heart-wrenching interpretations of the overwrought Japanese everyman.

With one-man shows, like "Nonstop Life" and "A Catalogue of City Life," he has built a national reputation in a country where comedy has a marginal following.

He has been performing "Catalogue" in Paris, Munich and New York, where he played to sold-out

audiences at the Japan Society. He has 14 videos in circulation, makes regular appearances in films and on prime-time television programs, and does about 50 live performances in Japan a year.

Ogata's skits are populated with upstanding citizens who have been pushed too far, squeezed too hard, crammed once too often in a jam-packed subway car. It is a world in which people, teetering on the verge of revolt, divorce, defiance, chicken out, a culture of exaggerated salarymen suffering from too much booze, lack of sleep and not enough fun.

Since 1984, Ogata has been developing a collage of 300 characters for "Catalogue," which he created with the director Yuzo Morita, his collaborator of 23 years. "The starting point for the show is that there is no such thing as individuality in Japan," Morita says. "Japanese act according to their rank in society. Whether you are a section chief or an assistant section chief completely determines how you talk, how you think, what you look like."

Like so many art forms, theater and comedy in Japan are run largely through an *temoto* system in which one studies under a master with the intent of learning, but never altering, his technique. Ogata and Morita have stayed clear of this kind of stylistic inbreeding. But because they function outside the system, they are relegated to off-Broadway-style theaters with limited access to funding and publicity.

Such built-in hardship has inhibited talented performers from trying to develop their own styles. Morita says, "What you get instead is an incredibly low level of slapstick humor where comedians get laughs by making fools of themselves," he says. "I think that many people would do the same kind of humor as Ogata, but they are afraid of being ostracized."

To meet Ogata is to find it difficult to think of him as a renegade. Small and slim, he is in many ways a caricature of his characters: a man who says he spends his free time "waiting for more work" and who returned a day early from a recent two-day trip with his wife to the resort town of Hakone because "there was nothing to do."

A blend of Robin Williams, Eric Bogosian and Lily Tomlin, Ogata's humor dares to question the social conditions that have created this tragicomic state of affairs. He portrays, for example, a haggard office worker who goes to a parking lot to meet a client and forgets why he came, what he does, who he is. After finally getting his wits about him, he begs to lose them again.

We also meet a bankrupt middle-aged company president-turned-construction worker who retains the pompous elocution of his former life. A symbol that Japan's era of overspending is still alive, he brags to his co-workers, "A man is only as big as his debt."

Ogata has never held a white-collar job. He gets his inspiration, he says, from observation. He is unfamiliar with Williams and Bogosian, but he admires Woody Allen. "I'm a fan of the wacky early works, but I hate the serious ones," he says.

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Makoto Kamimura

Ogata in a scene from his "Catalogue of City Life."

Born in Kyushu, Ogata moved often as a child because of his father's work. As far back as he can remember, he says that he was funny. And he developed his humor as a way to avoid the inevitable bullying that came every time he changed schools.

"I learned that if I could make the tough guys in the class laugh," he recalls, "they would let me hang around with them."

After failing his university entrance exam in the early 1970s, Ogata had, by his own account, three choices: drop out of society, join a

subversive political movement, or become involved in the underground theater that was flourishing at the time in Japan.

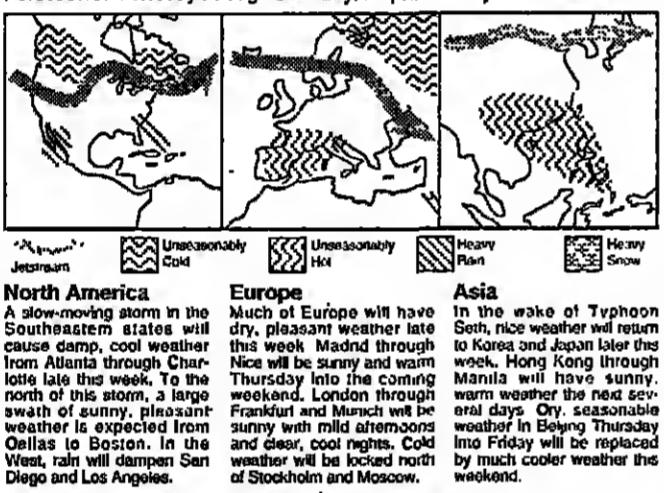
He chose theater, joining five Geiko in Tokyo when he was 19. It was there that he met Morita and that the two began their collaboration. "Back then, we were interested in Elmer and Beckett," Ogata recalls. "We never dreamed of doing comedy."

Carol Lufy is a Tokyo-based freelance journalist who specializes in the arts.

WEATHER

Europe

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by Accu-Weather.



Asia

	Today	High	Low	W	Tomorrow	High	Low	W	Friday	High	Low	W
	CDF	CDF	CDF	CDF	CDF	CDF	CDF	CDF	CDF	CDF	CDF	CDF
Algeria	15.25	17.05	13.25	25.01	17.05	18.05	13.25	25.01	17.05	18.05	13.25	25.01
Antananarivo	22.05	23.05	17.05	25.01	22.05	23.05	17.05	25.01	22.05	23.05	17.05	25.01
Antwerp	23.75	14.05	17.05	25.01	23.75	14.05	17.05	25.01	23.75	14.05	17.05	25.01
Barcelona	23.75	17.05	14.05	25.01	23.75	17.05	14.05	25.01	23.75	17.05	14.05	25.01
Bangkok	16.50	16.50	11.50	21.50	16.50	16.50	11.50	21.50	16.50	16.50	11.50	21.50
Bangui	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00
Bangalore	23.75	17.05	14.05	25.01	23.75	17.05	14.05	25.01	23.75	17.05	14.05	25.01
Beijing	16.50	16.50	11.50	21.50	16.50	16.50	11.50	21.50	16.50	16.50	11.50	21.50
Berlin	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00
Brisbane	23.75	17.05	14.05	25.01	23.75	17.05	14.05	25.01	23.75	17.05	14.05	25.01
Budapest	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00
Copenhagen	13.00	7.00	1.00	14.00	13.00	7.00	1.00	14.00	13.00	7.00	1.00	14.00
Dublin	17.00	7.00	1.00	14.00	17.00	7.00	1.00	14.00	17.00	7.00	1.00	14.00
Dresden	16.50	14.00	12.00	19.00	16.50	14.00	12.00	19.00	16.50	14.00	12.00	19.00
Dubrovnik	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00
Edinburgh	14.00	12.00	1.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	1.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	1.00	16.00
Frankfurt	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00
Geneva	15.25	11.25	1.00	17.00	15.25	11.25	1.00	17.00	15.25	11.25	1.00	17.00
Hamburg	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00
Heidelberg	20.50	15.50	10.50	24.00	20.50	15.50	10.50	24.00	20.50	15.50	10.50	24.00
Helsinki	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00
Hiroshima	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00
Issey Ogata: skits about people who have been pushed too far.	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00	17.00	16.00	11.00	21.00
Johannesburg	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00
Kuala Lumpur	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	19.00
Lisbon	17											